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PLO LINKS WITH CIA IN HUNTING HAMAMI KILLER DENIED

JN131517Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1400 GMT 13 Jan 78 JN

[Text] A responsible information source in the Palestinian revolution has stated the following: The London DAILY MAIL today published a report linking the PLO and a number of Western intelligence organs, including the CIA, concerning the search for the killers of martyr Sa'id Hamami, PLO representative in London. The PLO wishes to clarify that such false reports are received with derision by the sons of the Palestinian people. The PLO is concerned to clarify that the PLO has its own methods in hunting down the criminal killers of martyr Sa'id Hamami. The PLO has no doubt that the killers are agents of Zionism and imperialism, of which the CIA is the main pillar.

QADDUMI CRITICIZES SHAH'S STATEMENTS ON PALESTINE

JN131529Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 13 Jan 78 JN

[Text] In reply to a question by the Palestinian news agency on the PLO stand toward the latest statements by Shah of Iran Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in Teheran and Aswan, including his opposition to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, the head of the PLO Political Department, brother Abu al-Lutf, said: The latest moves made by the shah of Iran, which have been accompanied by other statements harmonious in content, timing and significance with those made by Menahem Begin, Carter, Brzezinski and Dayan, clearly indicate that there is a joint scheme aimed at harming our Palestinian issue and at returning the area to the ominous policy of alliances prevalent in the 1950's and at maintaining the Zionist entity as a spearhead in protecting the interests of imperialism and its agents in the area. The establishment of an independent Palestinian state will be contrary to what the shah of Iran stated, since the establishment of this state will be based on just peace in the area and the world. Without establishing this state no peace can be achieved, and dangers will continue to threaten interests in the area as well as world peace.

Qaddumi continued: The basic principles of political action are to comply with the commitments to which a country is bound by any official international conference or forum of which it is a member. He said: Iran was one of the countries participating in the Islamic summit conferences and the conferences of foreign ministers of the Islamic nations. Iran was also one of the groups which determine official meeting places on the international level. Paragraph 5 of the official statement issued by the latest Islamic summit in Lahore stipulates that the participating countries will comply in supporting the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in its just struggle to restore the rights of the Palestinian people, to return to their homeland and to establish their independent state on their land.

Abu al-Lutf further said: The Lahore conference was followed by resolutions of several conferences of foreign ministers, the latest of which was that of the Islamic foreign ministers in Tripoli, to enhance the content of that statement and to stress commitment to it. This was clear in Resolution No 4-8F, which clearly provided for recognition of and absolute support for the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people to continue all forms of political and armed struggle to restore their national rights, the foremost of which is their right to return to Palestine, to self-determination and to establish their independent national state on their soil.

The latest statements of the [illegible]h of Iran constitute a serious violation of the resolutions of the Islamic conferences, blatant defiance of the feelings of the entire Arab and Islamic worlds, and clear rejection of the basic principles of Islamic solidarity and well-known norms of summit conferences.

Concluding his statement, Abu al-Lutf said: Astonished by Iran's deviation from Islamic resolutions, the PLO affirms that this deviation will not undermine Islamic solidarity, nor will it discourage our determination to restore the usurped land.

ABU IYAD WARNS OF NEW ISRAELI AGGRESSION

JN171255Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The Qatari paper AL-'ARAB today published a statement for Salah Khalaf, member of the PLO Executive Committee, in which he warned the Arab nation of a new Zionist aggression to circumvent the front of steadfastness and confrontation which stands against the current capitulatory moves in the Arab region. Referring to Israel's refusal to relinquish its settlements in Sinai, Salah Khalaf said that bargaining over these settlements reaffirms that Israel is going on with its hostile plans against the Arab nation.

PLO PAPER ASSAILS EGYPTIAN ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS

JN132038Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 13 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Under the headline "The Two Negotiators," the newspaper FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH, the PLO central organ, writes:

Israel is in no hurry. The Israeli negotiator sitting in Cairo finds it pleasant. There is nothing that obliges him to feel anxious or to think about the seriousness of the negotiations for which he came. For this reason, he passes his time in futile negotiations, goes for a walk in the streets of Cairo the next day and enjoys the warm sun of the Egyptian winter. He then returns to Tel Aviv to pass 3 days of each week in consultations and exchanging views [words indistinct] as if matters have reached such a serious state as to require experts and specialists. This has been the situation of the Israeli negotiator beginning with the Mena House conference and extending through the meetings of Begin and Weizman with As-Sadat and ending with the meeting of the Military Committee presided over by (?lenient) Weizman and (?questioning) Al-Jamasi.

On the opposite side, the Egyptian negotiator is acting as if he wants to obtain quick results and to directly start discussions on essential issues. He asks for complete withdrawal from Sinai and the removal of Israeli settlements from Al- 'Arish, Rafah and Sharm ash-Shaykh, [word indistinct] the three Israeli military airfields in occupied Sinai. Then he proceeds, bypassing all these requests, to ask for a withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

With extreme coolness the Israeli negotiator replies that we have established the settlements with the aim of expanding them and not to burn or remove them. He then asks that the Israeli settlements remain in Sinai--which is Egyptian territory--and requests that the Israeli army protect these settlements. He announces that there will be no withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and also says no to a Palestinian state.

Why this extreme coolness by Israel and why the Egyptian feverishness? The position of the Israeli negotiator stems from a position of strength [words indistinct] of vast Arab territories and from the fact of U.S. political, military and financial support for Israeli policy.

Begin adds to this his historic right to all the territories, which his invading armies have trampled on, and his historic right to what he calls Judaea and Samaria. The Egyptian negotiator, who has lost his power by freezing the development of his army after the October war and has lost his true friends and replaced them with the friends of his enemies [word indistinct] has lost the card which he had been using with intelligence--the card of Arab solidarity. He sits bankrupt today at the negotiating table, uttering only empty words which he repeats to his negotiating partner, who has now realized that they are only worth being listened to out of courtesy.

What the Cairo papers report about a repetition of the October war and about wresting Egyptian land by force is now a subject belittled by Begin and his representatives at the negotiations. The October war cannot be waged by forces plagued by rust and whose basic course has become that of bargaining with the enemy over national soil and national issues which are linked to the existence and reason for living of every Egyptian and every Arab.

It is very painful for an Arab to see an Arab leader--no matter how closely connected he has become with imperialist circles--sitting at such a humiliating session as does the As-Sadat regime and his representatives at the negotiating table with the representatives of Begin, Rabin, Golda Meir, Eshkol and Ben-Gurion. It seems that those who have replaced the true friends of their people with the enemies of their people and the friends of their enemy and have opened the doors to their countries to Carter, the shah of Iran, Schmidt, Callaghan, Begin, Weizman and Dayan surely must be like them. They do not care about the interests of their countries as much as they care about their own interests and the interests of those surrounding them.

However, the Arab region has witnessed many rulers like them who have all come and gone. The soil of the homeland has remained preserved and the heads of the masses are always held high.

WEST BANK MAYORS ISSUE STATEMENT ON JERUSALEM MEETING

JN161810Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] The West Bank mayors today issued a public statement on the occasion of the meeting of the Egyptian-Israeli Political Committee and what this committee reportedly intends to discuss on the Palestinian issue.

In the statement the mayors affirmed that the only party entitled to represent the Palestinian people in any negotiations related to the issue is the PLO. No other party has the right to speak on behalf of the PLO. The statement also stresses that a just peace in the area cannot be achieved without recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on their soil, the total withdrawal of the occupation forces from all occupied Arab territories and the removal of all aspects as well as the institutions of the Zionist occupation.

The mayors' statement adds that neither negotiations nor concessions will lead to peace or drive the specter of war away from the region. The statement was signed by the mayors of Ramallah, Halhul, Nabulus, Tulkarm, Tubas, Salfit, Hebron, Bethlehem, Bayt Jala, Bayt Sahur, Bi'r Zayt, Al-Birah, Silwad, Baytuniya and Si'ir.

BAGHDAD REPORTS EXPLOSION NEAR OFFICE OF PFLP ORGAN

JN132122Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Jan 78 JN

[Text] An explosive charge went off today in front of the building which houses the offices of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] organ, the magazine AL-HADAF. The PFLP sources said that the damage was confined to material objects and was minor. A woman residing in the building sustained slight injuries when she collided with the door of her apartment in the wake of the explosion.

PFLP Editor's Statement

JN141258Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 14 January--Bassam Abu Sharid, AL-HADAF chief editor, has affirmed that agents of Zionist and U.S. intelligence services were behind the placing of explosive charges in the magazine's headquarters. Abu Sharif, who was speaking to reporters on the act of aggression against the magazine yesterday, said: This aggression is the fourth such act against the magazine since 1972. Referring to the Zionist enemy's assassination of struggler Ghassan Kanafani, Abu Sharif said: That was the beginning of the Zionist attempts "to silence the brave revolutionary word."

Abu Sharif said that the operation came at a stage when imperialism, Zionism and reaction are trying to implement their schemes to control the Arab homeland and liquidate the Palestinian people's revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement.

QADDUMI RECEIVES, TALKS WITH YUGOSLAV DELEGATION

JN141554Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 14 Jan 78 JN

[Text] A Palestinian-Yugoslav meeting was held yesterday at the headquarters of the Foreign Relations Office of the Fatah movement. The Palestinian side was headed by brother Abu al-Lutf, secretary of the Fatah movement central committee and chairman of the PLO Political Department. The Yugoslav side was headed by Comrade Risto Dzunov, vice president of the federal conference of the Socialist Alliance. Several important issues were discussed during the meeting. The two sides reviewed the Palestinian, Arab and international situation and also discussed Palestinian-Yugoslav relations.

The Yugoslav side reasserted its support for the Palestinian revolution and the PLO and for their just struggle to achieve their legitimate aims. [Words indistinct] to enhance his country's support for the PLO in all fields. The meeting lasted 3 and 1/2 hours.

Attending the meeting on the Palestinian side were brother Majid Abu Sharar, secretary of the Fatah Revolutionary Council and official in charge of unified information, Abu Hatim, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council and official in charge of the Fatah Foreign Relations Office, Ribhi 'Awad, PLO reporesentative in Cairo, Ibrahim (?al-Khatib), PLO representative in Belgrade; and [name indistinct], member of the presidium of the Yugoslav Women's Federation, and [name indistinct], official in charge of foreign relations in the Socialist Alliance federal conference.

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMN ARTICLE CALLS FOR NEW GOVERNMENT

LD1617427 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMN in Arabic 12 Jan 78 p 4 LD

[Al-'Amid Article: "New Government Required"]

[Text] A few days ago we received a note from the Ministry of Information noting the need to avoid discussing the present government and whether it will be replaced by a new one.

We adhered to the directives of the Ministry of Information because we realized that the present conditions necessitated the issuance of such directives to the press. However, we were surprised yesterday by one newspaper reporting that the "present cabinet is remaining in office." The paper based its report on his excellency the amir's first address to the people, in which he said: "We will continue the good course which our late amir charted for us, and we will follow his steps in achieving further successes in various fields." The paper also attributes its report to a "statement by a senior official" which, it has been said, was the minister of information himself.

The question is: How can the Ministry of Information instruct the newspapers not to discuss the subject of the cabinet and then release information on this subject to be published in one of the newspapers?

It is our right to assume that the Ministry of Information has lifted its restriction on the cabinet news since the ministry itself has become the source of such public information.

The situation of the present cabinet is preoccupying the minds of citizens and is the focus of their attention because the present cabinet is, generally, not satisfactory to them. There are some ministers who have monopolized power, and therefore it has become necessary to replace them.

Moreover, the claim that the present cabinet can remain in office because of "continuity" has no constitutional backing. In fact, the constitution provides for changing the present cabinet since the late amir's death.

His absence cannot be regarded just as if he has gone abroad. Consequently, changing the cabinet has become a constitutional necessity. It is also necessary in order to infuse new blood in the cabinet so that it will be up to the level of the great ambitions which his excellency the amir is aspiring to achieve.

We have seen in the past how several ministers were a burden on his excellency when he was prime minister and how he was often compelled to cover up for their inefficiency when he was dealing with matters that concerned their ministries.

It is natural that a new cabinet should be formed at the beginning of the new era, a cabinet whose ministers will be selected by his excellency so that it will shoulder the burden with him and participate in the achievement of his ambitions and plans for a better future.

Moreover, the situation in our country is quite normal and we do not wish anybody to say that it is not so. Because of the late amir's death and the assumption by the new amir of his post, it is constitutionally necessary that we form a new government. We must do this because of the considerations we have just mentioned.

OFFICIAL MEETS SOVIET ENVOY, REITERATES KUWAIT'S STAND

LD162121Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The State of Kuwait today reaffirmed its constant position on current political developments in the Arab region. This was stated today by Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rashid, under secretary of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, after meeting with the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait.

He said that Kuwait is totally committed to the resolutions of the Algiers and Rabat Arab summit conferences which stipulate that Israel should evacuate all the Arab occupied territories and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination of their national territory, as well as the return of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM SEES EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE AS DOOMED

LD131755Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 12 Jan 78 pp 1, 19 LD

[Editorial: "Time of American Rejoicing"]

[Excerpts] With the beginning of the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee yesterday, it was confirmed once again that the Egyptian initiative is at an impasse and has become confined to a separate Egyptian-Israeli agreement on Israeli terms.

Of course, Cairo does not wish to find itself in a tragic position and is, therefore, trying yet again since the visit to Jerusalem to keep Arab eyes glued to it and make Arabs hold their breath. Israeli Defense Minister Weizman's visit to Aswan yesterday was the new factor in this attempt.

However, experts see this visit as a mere "propaganda fanfare" aimed at glossing over failure in the hope of new Arab developments occuring that might save the situation.

"Saving the situation," according to experts, can be achieved only by an Israeli volte-face, which would be miraculous, or if a senior Egyptian official were to resign, which would also be miraculous.

Therefore, it does not look at present as if the situation can be saved. The Israelis behave as if they realize that they have stolen a march on the Egyptian stand and have turned it to their favor. As he was boarding the plane from Cairo to Aswan, Weizman said that he "thinks" of the other Arabs. He even wondered what Cairo's attitude would be if war broke out between Israel and Syria.

Essentially this means what, contrary to what has always been said, Cairo does not alone decide peace and war in the area. But Israel, having benefitted from the magic stroke of direct negotiations, does not wish to sever the links.

In other words, Israel, which is sufficiently shrewd and clever, realizes that Cairo has been trapped. It is playing cat and mouse with it. Thus Weizman has gone to Cairo pretending to "shun" unilateral peace because Israel wants a "comprehensive" peace. But Cairo is unable to provide such peace in the absence of Syria and the Palestinians and in view of the pressure of the question of Israeli settlements "that have come to stay" in Sinai and elsewhere.

In the middle of all this the Americans are rejoicing, for their game has succeeded. Cairo imagined that its theatrical movement would lead to the "final expulsion of the Soviet Union from the area," which would please the Americans and some Arab regimes and thus preserve for itself its advanced position in the Arab world and win a new "victory" on the map of the area.

But the Americans, who issued their famous joint statement with the Soviets, do not wish to "expel" the Soviets for, from an American standpoint, the Soviets are needed in the area so that they may be able to continue benefiting from tension and from fear of the Soviet Union which they exploit in different ways in order to dominate the area.

The United States' care for Israel make it anxious, despite all signs to the contrary, to maintain the Russian presence in the area so that Arab division will be perpetuated and Arab unity, the real threat to Israel, will never be achieved.

Thus it is clear that the major and primary objective is to maintain the status quo and to create new formulas not in the interest of the Arabs. Naturally, the greatest accomplishment of U.S. and Israeli policy was to "trap" Cairo as we see it now; it is now the lonely and frustrated party.

LOAN TO UNESCO, CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA APPROVED BY CABINET

NC151440Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1353 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 15 January--The Kuwaiti cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of Shaykh Jabil Al-'Ali, acting prime minister and minister of information, today approved the extension of the validity of the loan granted to UNESCO for another year. The loan, which amounts to 3 million Kuwaiti dinars, was granted to UNESCO in view of the circumstances through which it is passing as a result of the withdrawal of some states from the organization.

The cabinet also approved Kuwait's annual contribution to UNRWA for 1978, amounting to $600,000.

The cabinet approved Kuwait's share in the capital of the organization of gulf states joint production plan.

SAUDI ARABIA

'UKAZ NOTES MODERATE STANCE BY 'ARAFAT

LD161801Y Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 14 Jan 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial]

[Text] The new attitude of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is bound to strengthen the current direct peace negotiations, because an interim acceptance of a Palestinian state within a reasonable context that would be amenable to the coming stage of peace gives the Arab negotiator a stronger position and political leeway in the current negotiations.

This new change in the Palestinian thinking, which Yasir 'Arafat has clearly expressed, is of a special and new significance, particularly when we know that 'Arafat made this statement in Damascus. This implicitly means that it enjoys the sympathy of Syria, without which 'Arafat would not have been able to make such a statement on the Syrian territory. This deduction--the association between the Palestinian's clear stance and Syrian sympathy with it--makes us believe that new factors will enter the current peace negotiations, factors that could strengthen the present Arab role in the peace confrontation.

Moreover, the change in the Palestinian political thinking in fact stems from the full realization that the continued rejection of all the efforts being exerted by Egypt will harm the national interests of the Palestinian cause, particularly since in all its talks with Israel Egypt insists on the need to reach a total peaceful solution with the Palestinians because real peace in the Middle East is entirely dependent on the Palestinian solution.

At a time when the rejectionist states, which are distant from direct confrontation with Israel, failed to put forth any practical solutions and sought to make the Palestinian problem dependent on the political slogans of the past, without taking any practical steps to translate the philosophy of rejecting direct peace negotiations, urgent problems have cropped up requiring actual participation of the Palestinians in the talks. Such participation would prevent the Palestinians from losing more land in addition to the land they have already lost as a result of the slogans now being raised by the rejectionists.

We believe that following this Palestinian acceptance the United States must now play a major role in the negotiations with the Israelis to make the Israeli negotiator accept Palestinian participation in these talks, particulary since 'Arafat has given every guarantee possible against attack from the Palestinian state that will embody the Palestinians.

Therefore, the excuse that allowing the establishment of a Palestinian state neighboring Israel would be a danger to the Israeli existence and entity is no longer valid after the explanation that 'Arafat has made regarding the stages of creating a Palestinian state and its political aspirations in the Middle East once the state has reached the final stages of its formation in the peaceful atmosphere that will be realized.

Therefore, Israel must clearly understand that the offer made by the Palestinians will not be repeated, and therefore its rejection of such an offer will hamper the achievement of the desired peaceful objectives, whereas its acceptance of such an offer will determine its seriousness regarding the peace it is presently negotiating, the peace on which the future of the area and both the Arabs and Israelis will depend.

AL-MADINAH SCORES SOVIET INFILTRATION OF HORN OF AFRICA

NC1609337 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0845 GMT 16 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] Jidda, 16 January--The newspaper AL-MADINAH was warned against Soviet infiltration into the Horn of Africa, saying the aim of this infiltration is to cause disturbances and threaten stability in the area and neighboring countries.

In its commentary today the newspaper says that the daily airlift of equipment and arms from Soviet military bases to Soviet bases in Ethiopia and the expansion of activity by Soviet agents in Ethiopia to carry out the criminal communist plans in the region are not matters one can keep silent about.

AL-MADINAH affirms that the disturbances in the Horn of Africa are due to communist infiltration into the area and international nonrecognition of the basic rights of the nationalities in it.

The paper says that communist influence in Somalia was checked after it became clear to the Somali leaders that the Soviets wanted to achieve their ambitions at the expense of the national aspirations and legitimate demands of the Somalis.

Concluding its commentary, the paper affirms that the evil Soviet scheme will not succeed because there is strong determination not to allow foreign influence to destroy the desire of the countries of the region to achieve justice, establish neighborly relations and provide a suitable atmosphere for development.

MINISTER TO TAKE LETTER FROM KHALID TO AL-QADHDHAFI

NC161718Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1711 GMT 16 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 16 January--Education Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir will leave Riyadh for Tripoli tomorrow, Tuesday, morning. The SAUDI NEWS AGENCY has learned that Dr al-Khuwaytir will be carrying a letter from King Khalid for Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD171354Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 January 78 LD

[Excerpts] Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda arrived in Riyadh this morning with an accompanying delegation on a visit to the kingdom at the invitation of the Foreign Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. His Highness was at Riyadh airport to welcome the Japanese minister.

In a statement he made on arrival, His Excellency Sunao Sonoda expressed pleasure at fulfilling his wish to visit Riyadh and to be the first Japanese foreign minister to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia--one of the major powers in the Arab world. He said that he will hold frank talks with Saudi leaders on bilateral relations and international problems of mutual interests. Mr Sonoda affirmed his intention to take part in strengthening the cordial relations which exist between the kingdom and Japan at government and private level through personal contact.

UAE

JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

NC161954Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1850 GMT 16 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 January--Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda has said that Japan will continue to depend on oil as a basic source of energy for many years to come and that there is no coordination between Japan and any of the major states in the field of finding a new source of energy. Sonoda said in a press conference he held here tonight that Japan will continue to depend on the Middle East states' energy sources for many years to come.

The Japanese minister emphasized the need for cooperation between the oil-producing and oil-consuming states to solve all problems pertaining to production and marketing on one hand and exploration for alternative energy sources on the other.

On the Middle East question, Sonoda affirmed Japan's readiness to play any positive role and contribute toward finding an overall and just solution. In this context he referred to his country's attitude of clear support for the need to find a just peace in the area in accordance with the UN resolutions and charter.

On his current visit to the UAE, Sonoda said that a press statement will be issued tomorrow on the outcome of the visit and the discussions he held with UAE officials--discussions which dealt with economic, trade and cultural cooperation between the two countries and international questions of mutual concern, primarily the Middle East question.

Sonoda expressed his country's readiness to participate in UAE development projects, either on the level of the two governments or that of the public sector and establishments. He said that other visits will be exchanged on all levels aimed at bolstering existing cooperation between the two countries.

It is worth noting that Japan is the primary importer of UAE oil and that Japanese products occupy first place on UAE markets.

YEMEN--PDRY

PRIME MINISTER BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT TO BULGARIA

For reportage on the official visit to Bulgaria of Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani, see the Bulgarian section of the 17 January and subsequent issues of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

POLISARIO MINISTER VISITS ADEN, HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

LD151958Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Brother Muhammad Salim Ould Malik, information minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, currently on a visit to Democratic Yemen, has thanked the National Front for its support for the Saharan people's struggle.

Brother Muhammad Salim Ould Malik shed light on the struggle being waged by the Saharan people and its development. He also touched on the imperialist and reactionary conspiracies faced by the young republic, saying: These onslaughts coincide with imperialist attempts to liquidate the revolutionary forces in the Arab homeland.

French Helicopter Downed

TA151456Y Paris AFP in English 1449 GMT 15 Jan 78 TA

[Excerpt] Aden, Jan 15 (AFP)--Saharan nationalist forces shot down a French helicopter on Jan. 11, capturing the crew, Sahrawi information minister Muhammad Salim Ould Malik said here today at a press conference. The visiting minister said that information taken from the crew indicated that French air and sea forces based in Morocco and Mauritania--which jointly administer the former Spanish Sahara--were planning to launch a major attack against the POLISARIO Saharan nationalists. Mr Malik, currently on a tour of Arab capitals, said his government was prepared to open negotiations on the Saharan conflict, but only on condition that the Sahrawi people gained its independence.

YEMEN--YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR SAUDI ARABIA

JN161738Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj left San'a' for Saudi Arabia this afternoon to deliver a message from Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the armed forces, to his brother His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The foreign minister will hold talks with the Saudi foreign minister on the Arab situation and on means to overcome Arab differences and restore Arab solidarity. The foreign minister will also visit a number of other Arab states for the same purpose.

AL-JAMASI COMMENTS ON MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Cairo Radio Interview

NC131559Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1511 GMT 13 Jan 78 NC

[Interview granted by Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, to two unidentified representatives of Cairo radio--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Could the deputy prime minister cast more light on the topics stressed by the Egyptian side to the Egyptian-Israeli military talks and the importance of these topics in backing up President as-Sadat's peace initiative?

[Answer] The Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee discussed two main topics. The first was the question of Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and the second was the question of reciprocal security arrangements between Egypt and Israel. The Egyptian side reaffirmed its position that complete withdrawal from Sinai means withdrawal of the Israeli armed forces and absence of any Israeli settlements in Sinai. As for the reciprocal security arrangements, they include buffer zones on the borders and demilitarized zones in accordance with Security Council Resolution 242. From this we see that there are many diversified and intertwined issues which require lengthy discussions to achieve agreement.

[Question] Mr Deputy Prime Minister, when is Weizman expected to return and what are the topics to be submitted to the committee in the future?

[Answer] After the discussions and work of the Political Committee are completed in Jerusalem, a suitable time for the return of General Weizman to resume the military talks will be known. This depends on the progress achieved in the work of the Political Committee.

[Question] Forty-eight hours after the meeting of the Military Committee, have some viewpoints been brought closer together?

[Answer] In the 48 hours of negotiations in the Military Committee agreement was reached on certain principles and there was disagreement on some other principles. Hence, we have not arrived at definite decisions that can be announced.

[Question] What were the points of agreement achieved?

[Answer] I do not want to anticipate events by discussing the points of agreement and disagreement because we are still at the beginning of the road. Our view is that the continued presence of Israeli settlements on Egyptian territory obstructs peace.

[Question] What was the reasoning behind having the Military Committee meet before the Political Committee? It had previously been decided that the two committees would work simultaneously.

[Answer] There was no decision that the Political and Military committees would meet simultaneously. There was agreement that the Military Committee would meet after 7 January 1978 because I had engagements up to that date--the visit of the British defense secretary to Egypt. The two sides agreed that the Military Committee would meet on 11 January and that the Political Committee would begin meetings on 16 January. There was no prior agreement that that was changed.

[Question] What topics have been discussed in the Military Committee so far? Will they be submitted to the Political Committee in Jerusalem?

[Answer] The topics discussed by the Military Committee are closely linked to the topics that will be discussed by the Political Committee. Likewise, the topics to be discussed by the Political Committee are closely related to the topics in the Military Committee because one complements the other and the purpose is to achieve the same objective.

[Question] Regarding the remaining committee, what discussions will be held in it?

[Answer] There is no remaining committee from the Israeli side. Some members [of the Israeli side] are still in Cairo to complete and clarify some points of detail.

[Question] Thank you, sir.

[Answer] Thank you very much.

AL-AHRAM Interview

NC140825Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 January--Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, has stated that the Egyptian side to the Military Committee has affirmed Egypt's position, namely, the need to achieve complete Israel withdrawal from Sinai. He said that this means withdrawing the Israeli armed forces and not keeping any Israeli settlements in Egyptian Sinai territory.

General al-Jamasi said that the question of Israeli settlements was among the main topics discussed and that discussions on this topic will continue. He said Egypt believes that retaining the Israeli settlements in Egyptian territory is obstructing the peace efforts.

In an interview published in AL-AHRAM today, General al-Jamasi said no specific date can be fixed for the conclusion of the work of the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee because the subjects the committee is discussing are complicated, intertwined and have many ramifications and that they are all related to two main questions, namely, complete Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and mutual security.

He said: We reached agreement within the committee on certain principles but differed on certain others. We have not yet arrived at any specific resolutions. However, I assert that there are no great differences and that through determination and constructive discussion we will reach all results.

The following is the text of the interview which General al-Jamasi granted to AL-AHRAM:

Question: What did the committee discuss during its meetings?

Answer: The Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee discussed two main topics, namely, complete Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and mutual security measures for Israel and Egypt. The Egyptian side reaffirmed its position that complete withdrawal from Sinai means withdrawing the Israeli armed forces and not retaining any Israeli settlements in Sinai.

As for mutual security measures, these include buffer zones along the border and demilitarized zones in accordance with Security Council Resolution 242. Therefore, we believe that there are several subjects with intertwined ramifications which required lengthy discussions if agreement is to be reached.

Question: What was achieved during these 2 days?

Answer: During the 48-hour joint Military Committee discussions agreement was reached on certain principles but we differed on some others. Therefore, we did not arrive at specific resolutions.

Question: Was the Israeli side stern during the negotiations?

Answer: Negotiations always open with each side adopting a stern stand and presenting its maximum demands. The process of rapprochement in viewpoints begin during the negotiations. If the two sides arrive at a compromise, then the negotiations are successful; otherwise, they are a failure.

Question: Can one expect positive results shortly?

Answer: I do not want to anticipate events because we are still at the beginning of the road. The Political Committee has not met yet and it will shoulder the main work.

Question: Why did the Military Committee meet before the Political Committee?

Answer: It was not decided that the two committees should meet simultaneously. It was agreed that the Military Committee would begin its meetings after 7 January in view of the engagements up to that date, including the visit of the British secretary of defense. The Egyptian and the Israeli sides agreed that the Military Committee would begin its meetings in Cairo on 11 January and that the Political Committee meetings would begin in Jerusalem on 16 January.

Question: Are the topics discussed by the Military Committee linked with those to be discussed by the Political Committee?

Answer: The topics which the Military Committee has discussed are closely linked with the topics to be discussed by the Political Committee. Likewise, the topics to be discussed by the Political Committee are linked with those of the Military Committee. Each of the two committees complements the other.

Question: Have all the members of the Israeli military delegation left Cairo for Israel?

Answer: No. Some members are still in Cairo to complete and clear up certain points.

Question: What about the question of the settlements?

Answer: The question of the settlements was among the topics discussed and which will continue to be discussed. We believe that the continued presence of Israeli settlements in Egyptian territory obstructs peace.

Question: Is there an approximate date for concluding the Military Committee work?

Answer: No date can be fixed. The subjects we are discussing are complex, intertwined and have several ramifications. These are all related to two main points, namely, complete withdrawal from Sinai and mutual security.

We must not forget that these problems have grown out of 30 years of military, political and social struggle and 11 years of Israeli occupation of Sinai.

Question: What prompted Weizman to return to Israel?

Answer: We exchanged views and discussed these at the meetings. Weizman has returned to his country for consultations with his government on what we have declared.

Question: Are there great differences in viewpoints?

Answer: I assert that there are no great differences as I explained earlier. Through determination and constructive discussion we will reach all results.

Israeli TV Interview

TA151833Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 15 Jan 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Oded Zaray]

[Excerpt] In an interview with Israeli television in Arabic, Egyptian Minister of War General al-Jamasi said that Egypt has treated with understanding the Israeli proposals submitted at the Military Committee, including those on Israel's defense needs. Israel has given similar treatment to the Egyptian proposals. He added that from an Egyptian point of view, however, the Israeli plan does not guarantee peace and security. According to him, the issue of Israeli settlements in Sinai is delicate and complicated and contrary to the principle of Egyptian sovereignty. "As long as Israel and Egypt aspire for peace, the issue of settlements should not constitute an obstacle on the road to peace. On this matter, a meeting point should be reached in the positions of the two parties." At the end of the interview he said that he prays for peace between the two peoples.

In reply to a question he said that his personality is different from that of Chief of Staff Gur. "Gur tends toward literature and writing stories for children while I am attracted to military and history books," he said.

AS-SADAT TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE MEETING WITH BEGIN

TA171155Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Jan 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yona Shimshi]

[Excerpt] Cairo--The president of Egypt, Anwar as-Sadat, has invited Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman to meet with him the day after tomorrow, right after he arrives in Cairo. The president of Egypt wants to hear at first hand about the mood of the Israeli Cabinet and also try to examine whether any change has taken place in the position of the cabinet on the issue of the settlements in Sinai. At the Weizman-As-Sadat meeting the possibility of determining an agenda for a possible talk in the near future between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and the president of Egypt will also be discussed.

Maj Gen Avraham Tamir, the head of the limited Israeli delegation to Cairo, met yesterday with his Egyptian counterpart, Gen Tana al-Majdub, and the two of them began practical talks to prepare the agreed points and pass them on to the full conference headed by Ministers Weizman and al-Jamasi.

There was a good and friendly atmosphere in the talks yesterday, in contrast to the atmosphere the day before yesterday, which was filled with tension.

The talks between Tamir and Al-Majdub are concentrated on the issues of determining the lines of the areas of limited forces, demilitarization and buffer zones in Sinai. Questions in connection with the stationing and operation of early warning measures in Sinai in the context of a peace settlement are also being discussed.

GROUP TO ANALYZE REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM TO BE FORMED

NC171315Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1238 GMT 17 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 January--Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has submitted a letter to President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat sent to him by Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil from Jerusalem. It has been decided that Vice President Mubarak and Prime Minister Mamduh Salim will form a working group to receive and analyze statements and information coming from Jerusalem.

TEL AVIV PAPER INTERVIEWS AL-AKHBAR'S MUSA SABRI

TA161548Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Jan 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[Interview with AL-AKHBAR editor Musa Sabri by Semadar Peri in Jerusalem on 15 January]

[Text] The editor of the mass circulation Egyptian paper AL-AKHBAR appealed last night, through 'AL HAMISHMAR--in an interview given in Jerusalem--to the citizens of Israel with a request to act to eliminate those obstacles standing in the way of peace. He stressed that the Egyptians are completely convinced that "Sinai has no connection with Israel's security in any sense of the word."

Here is the interview in full:

(Question) Whom would you like to meet in Israel?

(Answer) Politicians, journalists, newspaper editors, especially Begin and Peres. I regard it as my duty as a journalist to meet Israeli politicians because we in Egypt cannot understand what is happening with the politicians in Israel. We feel disappointment at Begin's statements about the settlements and over other details. We want to discuss the current situation with the politicians in Israel, as it appears to us--and to ask them why the Israeli Cabinet is putting up barriers to the process of real and viable peace.

(Question) What barriers?

(Answer) If they say that a settlement must be based on Israel's conditions--and this is not legally acceptable, either to the United States, the Security Council or even to Carter, according to his statement 3 days ago--it is plain from this that you in Israel want something which you knew in advance would be rejected.

We in Egypt are completely convinced that settlements in Sinai have no connection at all with Israel's security in any sense of the word. Therefore, this is a political and not a military issue. If you recognize Egyptian sovereignty in Sinai, how can one arrive at a settlement through maintaining the IDF presence there. Therefore, we feel that President as-Sadat's initiative up to now has not been reciprocated with a positive response on the part of Begin, and we believe that it is impossible to sacrifice peace to such things of insignificance.

(Question) If so, what is your proposal?

(Answer) We are honestly and sincerely thinking about a clear future between our people and Israel. We did, indeed, feel that As-Sadat's visit had broken the barrier and the lack of trust. We felt that the Israelis--and I mean the citizens of Israel and not the politicians--were searching for peace and they had put all their trust in President as-Sadat. This being so, I ask: What are all these tactics for? We want to write a new history in this area. We want every young person to have security in his life. ... This is the right of the young generation in Israel and Egypt and all over the world--to live happily and not under the threat of war.

All these words, connected with the security of Israel--and security is a fact we are prepared to accept and to agree to it, with all the guarantees for Israel's security--and I recall that we said we did not want the evacuation to be at the expense of Israel's security. Nevertheless, we do not agree that Israel's security should be at the expense of the evacuation and the implications of Resolution 242.

Therefore, if I am given the right to publish a few heart-to-heart words to the Israeli people in your paper, I would say: "Please, help us and support peace. Help the genuine efforts for peace and show courageous opposition to all those obstacles which may ruin everything. Everyone must take advantage of this historic opportunity, which will not be repeated. After all, nobody could have believed, not long ago, that the president of the largest Arab country would come to Israel and propose peace. Therefore, let us stop the differences of opinion and all the obstacles and look directly at the objective."

(Question) What changes do you now feel since Begin went to Ismailia?

(Answer) What we heard from Golda and Peres has not changed completely. Now the Alinement is no longer the left. It is standing on Begin's right. And I can tell you that there is no benefit to be gained from any of these political tactics. We really hope that the Israelis--young and old--will trust President as-Sadat and the Egyptians, so as to create genuine peace and look to the future, toward the creation of normal relations between Israel and Egypt. In the past all this was a sort of dream, and we were opposed to it. But after President as-Sadat visited here and felt that the man in the street was convinced on the issue of peace, he changed his mind on the issue of normalization of relations and said: I am ready. That was the influence of the Israeli man in the street. But now the Israeli politicians are spoiling everything. Therefore, I am appealing to everybody in Israel who wants to help cross over the small obstacles and come with us to the great objective--to help convince the Cabinet of Israel.

(Question) Has anything changed in the last 24 hours which caused you to decide to come to Israel?

(Answer) There were problems in the matter of the agenda, and it appears that some of them have been solved. However, the main problem was and still is: How to sincerely and honestly understand the implications of Resolution 242?

(Question) Are you optimistic?

(Answer) I am optimistic, because I believe that I, too, have the responsibility of fighting for peace.

AL-AHRAM CHIEF EDITOR ASSAILS ISRAELI, PLO SLOGANS

NC131050Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 January--AL-AHRAM's chief editor 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal strongly criticizes the slogans Israel is raising about the settlements as well as the slogans which certain PLO leaders are raising. In an article today he says that the current Israeli slogans as well as the slogans some PLO leaders are raising have been rendered obsolete by President Anwar as-Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem. Israel continues to live under illusions of the past and with a mentality of the past. The PLO is incapable of maturing and rising to the level of events in order to benefit from the new situation that has been created and even imposed by the peace initiative.

AL-AHRAM's chief editor notes that Israel's insistence on retaining a number of settlements in Sinai means that the Israeli Government is continuing to raise the slogan of outbidding The Israeli Government is well aware that this attempt will not succeed because it is illogical and unreasonable. Egypt will not accept settlements under Israeli control on its territory. This is inconsistent with all international law and charters.

'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal then asks why Israel has gone back on the stand announced by its prime minister, Menahem Begin, at the Ismailia talks when he said the cabinet had decided to withdraw totally from Sinai and return to the international border. He also asks why Israel is now setting conditions which only mean obstacles on the path to peace.

Answering himself, the AL-AHRAM chief editor says: I believe that Israel figured that Egypt's sole interest and preoccupation was the recovery of its territory and that Egypt would be content with this. Israel then found out that Egypt is serious about everything which its president said in the Knesset when he said the occupied Arab territories are one indivisible unit and that withdrawal does not apply to Sinai alone, but includes--with the same importance--the West Bank and the Golan.

Al-Jammal adds that Israel was made aware of this by President as-Sadat's reaction to U.S. President Carter's remarks on the subject of the independent Palestinian state. Begin's government also ascertained this fact after hearing the statement by Carter at Aswan airport.

Al-Jammal says: At that point, Israel began to grasp a fact which it--intentionally or unintentionally--had failed to grasp during President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. Israel came to grasp the fact that the Egyptian president had come with an overall settlement and that, to Egypt, withdrawal from Sinai is no less important than withdrawal from the West Bank and the Golan. Israel then began to change its stance and reverted to its old slogans on the settlements in Sinai and Sharm ash-Shaykh and other things to use as a kind of bargaining chip with Egypt.

'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal explains that by doing this the Israelis want to say: We will withdraw completely from Sinai and Sharm ash-Shaykh, leaving no settlements, airfields or anything else, but keep your hands off the West Bank and do not demand the right to self-determination. By doing this Israel wants to return to the vicious circle we were in before the peace initiative. Israel does not want to face the fact that the peace initiative has broken through this circle and that the hands of time cannot be turned back.

He adds that the Israeli Government is well aware that such an attempt on its part is doomed to failure because neither Arab, Israeli nor international public opinion will accept it. The slogan now raised in these three circles is that of peace and any other slogan inconsistent with this is obsolete. AL-AHRAM's chief editor adds: Maybe we should not prejudge Israel's policy and leave it up to the difficult and hard talks in the Military and Political committees to create an atmosphere in which reason may prevail over frivolity and justice over falsehood.

'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal then goes on to deal with the PLO and its slogans. He says that some PLO leaders regrettably continue to think with the mentality of the past and miss opportunity after opportunity as a result of the outbidding which prevails among the opposing leaderships within the PLO. He reviews the position of various leaders within the organization and says that various agent leaders within the PLO are seeking to destroy the bridges by which the PLO could reach its goals. Those leaderships, which have a vested interest in obstructing the peace process, are raising war slogans and presenting these as a gift to the PLO's enemies, who will use these slogans to defame the organization. However, the rational leaders in the organization are incapable of declaring their views in public and are satisfied with what they say at closed meetings.

AL-AHRAM's chief editor says: Nevertheless, we have not yet lost hope. The rational current within the PLO will triumph in the end and will find the courage to declare in public what it is now saying in secret.

'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal asks: Why can the PLO not benefit from the lessons of history? Why does the PLO not study the policy of the Vietnamese revolution, which conducted negotiations with the United States, and the Algerian revolution, which was still fighting on the battlefield while negotiating with France?

Al-Jammal calls on the PLO to implement the Rabat summit conference resolutions, which provide for the formation of a tripartite committee including Egypt, Jordan and the PLO; to clear the atmosphere between King Husayn and the PLO; and to draw up a unified policy that will foil Israeli outbidding. Al-Jammal adds that there is no longer a place for old slogans and all the parties must choose the slogans which are consistent with the new phase and which contribute to arriving at a real peace.

CAIRO SAYS SETTLEMENTS NOT SUBJECT TO BARGAINING

NC131813Y Cairo Domestic Service 1230 GMT 13 Jan 78 NC

[Fawzi Surur commentary: "Arab Land Is Sacred and Not Subject to Bargaining"]

[Text] The Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee stemming from the Cairo conference, which is aimed at a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question, has concluded its second meeting in Cairo.

It may be premature to talk about whatever achievements the committee may have made, but, according to statements made by officials of the two sides and without going into a labyrinth of details, it can be said that this committee, whose special task is to discuss military subjects related to the comprehensive settlement, discussed the question of security between Egypt and Israel. This means that the question of the Israeli settlements in Egypt's Sinai has taken priority on the committee's agenda at a time when futile arguments have been taking place because of statements issued about them recently by some Israeli leaders and officials, and first of all by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

All observers are unanimous that raising the question of the settlements and their maintenance on Egyptian territory is an unpleasant exploitation of the Egyptian initiative for establishing peace in the Middle East and is not a commendable attitude.

The establishment of peace in the region, as has been announced on various occasions, is conditional on two basic principles: total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the preservation of the Palestinian people's rights, the foremost of which is their basic right of self-determination. This, frankly and clearly, means that any talk about postponing Israeli withdrawal means that the peace whose roots have been placed in Middle East soil for the first time in 30 years of hostilities and wars is now threatened by the gravest perils. On this basis, all the opposing Israeli statements which contain a meaningless insistence on the existence of Israeli settlements, threats of revising the international borders and claims that the 1967 war was defensive--whatever the source of these statements and whoever makes them--do not conform to international legality or to the various laws and resolutions that do not recognize in any way annexing territories or remaining in them, and thus they do not serve the question of the desired peace in the region.

It has been reiterated that the Israeli side has submitted a second proposal containing an Israeli plan for solving the problems. In the context of the Egyptian side's statements on its fixed position, which is not subject to bargaining, unless the Israeli side abandons its futile obduracy and its useless maneuvers, it will be the party responsible for deferring the establishment of peace and will appear as the side opposing this cause, which has been blessed, supported and praised by all international circles, official and unofficial.

Israel is thus wasting the opportunity for peace made available to it now for the first time. The question of bargaining over peace will collapse, and so it should. For if the occupied land is not restored to its rightful owners, if the statements and reports which are leaked to the press about settlements are not stopped, and if the circles which have been accustomed to reiterating obsolete slogans and feeble and conventional theories or whatever is said about Israeli security and secure borders--if all this does not stop, then this will mean that those who welcomed peace are neither sincere nor serious in their intentions toward it. Thus, their attitude in this respect is bound to lead to the situation prevailing before the Egyptian peace initiative--that is, to return to a fluctuating situation, to destroy the efforts for solving the Middle East problem and to return to the state of no war, no peace which prevailed before the peace initiative and its dynamic efforts took place and put an end to it by moving the stagnant situation toward the desired peace.

The Israeli leaders, whether on the Military Committee, the Political Committee or other committees. In present and future contacts should be aware of Egypt's sole view on peace, which is constitutionally based on the two fixed principles embodied in inevitable Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory and the solution of the Palestinian people's problem, which is considered the backbone of the entire Middle East problem. This means that the peace issue cannot be allowed to go astray and that the intertwined problems of this issue cannot be allowed to shrink into one problem. The Arab land is sacred and is not subject to bargaining. Fundamental conditions for the establishment of peace are total withdrawal and the solution of the Palestinian problem.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER

NC141553Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 14 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 January--President as-Sadat received Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta, who arrived in Cairo yesterday, Thursday [as received], on a visit to the republic which will last for several days.

Foreign Minister Leaves

NC151005Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0931 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 January--Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta today left Cairo for home following a 2-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. President Anwar as-Sadat received the Moroccan minister during his visit to Egypt.

AS-SADAT INSPECTS LAKE NASIR AREA 12 JAN

NC122141Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Jan 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today toured the Nasir Lake area. During the tour he inspected the sites of the projects that will be implemented to build up the area and to utilize the lake's resources in all fields.

President as-Sadat was accompanied on this tour by Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, leader of the parliamentary group in Ismailia; Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of housing and construction; and Maj Gen Kamal Khayrallah, governor of Aswan.

Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi has stated that his excellency the president has issued instructions to speed up the implementation of the Nasir Lake projects, particularly in the field of developing the fish resources of the lake, cultivating the shores of the lake and establishing a fish complex and projects which will provide food for the people. President as-Sadat also said that it is necessary to exploit the mineral and tourist resources of the area and to take an interest in the plans for the welfare of the fishermen.

EGYPT, ITALY SIGN ENERGY COOPERATION AGREEMENT

NC161924Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Egypt and Italy today signed an agreement providing for technical and technological cooperation in the field of electricity and energy. The agreement provides for training Egyptian experts in how to operate electrical and nuclear power stations and for implementing joint projects between the Egyptian establishment for electricity and the Italian ENI.

PALESTINIAN RED CRESCENT CHAIRMAN ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN121727Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 January--Dr Fathi 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, has expressed his appreciation for the various medical assistance offered to the Palestinian revolution by Iraq.

In a press statement made after his meeting with Dr Riyad Ibrahim Husayn, health minister, Dr 'Arafat said that Iraq has adopted the medical plan prepared by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society to be submitted to the council of Arab health ministers due to convene next February.

He added that the Iraqi Health Ministry has asserted that it continues to support the Arab research center on accidents and has agreed to open a branch of this center in Baghdad. The ministry has also adopted the project of preparing a medical atlas in addition to its cooperation with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society to establish a blood bank in Iraq. Dr 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad last night on a visit of several days.

FINNISH MINISTER RECEIVED BY IRAQI OFFICIALS

JN110950Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 January--'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and planning minister, has stressed Iraq's genuine desire to develop relations with Finland in all fields. This came at a meeting here yesterday between 'Adnan Husayn and (Arforoyd Kenin), minister of state of the Finnish Foreign Ministry. The two sides discussed trade and economic relations between the two countries and means of developing them.

Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, earlier received the Finnish delegation. During the meeting they discussed the possibilities of bolstering cooperation between Iraq and Finland in all fields.

Minutes Signed

JN150831Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 15 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 January--The minutes of the fifth session of the joint Iraqi-Finnish committee were signed here last night. The minutes included principles for expanding cooperation between the two countries in the fields of trade, agriculture, industry, tourism, exchange of technical expertise and transfer of technology to develop cooperation in the interests of the peoples of Iraq and Finland.

On the Iraqi side the minutes were signed by Mahdi Muhsin 'Awdah, Trade Ministry under secretary, while (Arforoyd Kenin), minister of state of the Finnish Foreign Ministry and official in charge of foreign economic affairs, signed the minutes on behalf of Finland.

Concludes Visit

JN150832Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 15 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 January--(Arforoyd Kenin), minister of state of the Finnish Foreign Ministry, left Baghdad this morning following a 1-week visit to Iraq. In a press statement prior to his departure, the Finnish official praised the relations of cooperation between Iraq and Finland. He said that these are developing constantly.

(Kenin) announced that at the meetings of the Iraqi-Finnish committee he initialed an agreement for cooperation in tourism. This agreement will be signed in Helsinki soon. He added that agreement was reached on beginning discussions in 1978 to conclude another agreement in the field of civil aviation.

It will be recalled that the Iraqi-Finnish agreement for economic and technical cooperation between the two countries was signed in 1968.

CYPRIOT MINISTER OF LABOR ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN150750Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 15 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 January--Markos Spanos, Cypriot minister of labor and social insurance, arrived here last night at the head of a delegation on 3-day visit to Iraq. In a press statement, Spanos said that he will hold consultations with Iraqi officials to develop relations between Iraq and Cyprus.

Meets With Iraqi Counterpart

JN150951Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 15 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 January--The Iraqi and Cypriot ministers of labor discussed here today bilateral relations in the fields of labor and workers and social affairs. This took place at a meeting between Babakr Mahmud Rasul al-Bashdari, minister of labor and social affairs, and Markos Spanos, Cypriot minister of labor and social insurance. During the meeting the Cypriot minister and the delegation accompanying him were briefed on the work and services rendered by the Iraqi labor and social affairs departments.

Concludes Visit

JN161526Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 January--Markos Spanos, Cypriot minister of labor and social insurance, left Baghdad this afternoon at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq.

The Cypriot minister met yesterday with Babakr Mahmud Resul al-Bashdari, minister of labor and social affairs, and discussed with him subjects related to labor and workers. He was also briefed on the nature of social services provided to Iraqi citizens.

SPANISH TRADE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

JN152130Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Juan Antonio Garcia Diez, Spanish minister of commerce and tourism, arrived in Baghdad this evening leading a delegation on a 3-day official visit to Iraq.

Mr Garcia Diez said that the aim of the visit is to discuss the development of economic and trade relations and the possiblities of achieving more cooperation between the two friendly countries in that field. He added that he will meet with a number of officials to discuss the scope of cooperation between Spain and Iraq. He also praised the historic relations existing between the Spanish and Arab peoples.

Present to welcome him at the airport were Hasan 'Ali al-Amiri, RCC member and minister of trade; Naji Muhsin Awdah, under secretary of the Ministry of Trade; and the Spanish ambassador in Baghdad.

Talks With Oil Minister

JN161600Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 January--Oil relations between Iraq and Spain were discussed at an official meeting here today.

The meeting was held between Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, RCC member and oil minister, and Juan Antonio Garcia Diez, Spanish minister of commerce and tourism, who is currently visiting Iraq.

The discussions also dealt with the means to develop cooperation in the oil domain with a view to achieving the Iraqi and Spanish peoples' mutual interests.

The meeting was attended by Dr Awni Shakir Hammadi, director general of the department of oil and investments, and the Spanish ambassador in Baghdad.

Meets With Trade Minister

JN161248Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 January--RCC member and Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali met here today with Spanish Minister of Commerce and Tourism Juan Antonio Garcia Diez and his accompanying delegation. The two ministers discussed aspects of cooperation between the two friendly countries to serve the interests of their peoples.

Delivers Message to RCC Official

JN171011Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 17 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 January--RCC Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez dealing with relations between the two countries.

The message was conveyed to the vice chairman by Spanish Minister of Commerce and Tourism Juan Antonio Garcia Diez during their meeting here today. During the meeting, they discussed the relations between Spain and Iraq and the means to develop the ties of friendship and cooperation between them to serve the interests of the Iraqi and Spanish peoples. They also discussed other matters of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by RCC member and Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali and the Spanish ambassador in Baghdad.

ERITREAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD FOR TALKS

JN161108Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 January--'Abdallah Isma'il, officer in charge of foreign relations in the Eritrean Liberation Front Revolutionary Council, arrived in Baghdad today on a visit of several days to Iraq.

While in Iraq, Isma'il will hold talks with officials in the Ba'th Party National Command and in the Palestine and Armed Struggle Office on current events and developments in the Arab arena as well as on the stages of struggle waged by the Eritrean people against Ethiopian colonialism.

RALLY TO BE HELD IN SUPPORT OF EGYPTIAN PEOPLE

JN1616311 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 January--A big public rally will be held here on Thursday in solidarity with the Egyptian Arab people on the occasion of the first anniversary of the 18 and 19 January 1977 upheaval.

A supreme committee for solidarity with the Arab people of Egypt was set up today. It consists of representatives of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and of popular and professional organizations in Iraq.

OIL DELEGATION LEAVES FOR TRIPOLI CONFERENCE

JN141325Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 14 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 January--A delegation from the Ministry of Oil led by Dr Hasan 'Ali an-Naji, director general of the ministry, left for Tripoli this afternoon to participate in the 10th Arab oil conference due to be held there on Monday.

Prior to his departure Dr an-Naji said that the Iraqi delegation will submit to the conference 11 research studies dealing with various fields of the oil industry. He added that the conference will provide a good opportunity to exchange experiences and viewpoints with our Arab brothers regarding the oil industry.

The delegation is made up of oil industry experts from the fields of drilling, exploration, production and refining as well as of economic and financial affairs.

This conference is held once every 2 years in one of the Arab countries.

SADDAM HUSAYN ADDRESSES BA'TH PARTY CLASS

JN151716Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 January--Saddam Husayn, deputy chairman of the RCC, has affirmed that the Arab nation's struggle at this stage is directed against imperialism, Zionism and their partners. He said: We must prepare outselves with great patience to carry out this struggle for a long period of time. He added: We must be patient. If we go through Arab history we will find that the Arab nation has been able to triumph over its enemies no matter how long the struggle.

This came in a speech delivered by Saddam Husayn at the class of the party preparation students at noon today.

Saddam Husayn said: The Arab masses must understand that the closure of a certain front against the enemy does not mean that the nation will collapse or surrender. He added: The struggle against our enemies has not ended. The present facts are not final, provided that the Arabs pull themselves up to overcome the scientific and technological gap, pool their various resources, and consolidate their position on the international level and their relations with the influential forces in the world in the coming phase.

Discussing As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem and the subsequent contacts with the Zionist officials, Saddam Husayn said: Our party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party--before and after the 17 July Revolution--has always drawn attention to the fact that the course of a settlement will only lead to the recognition of the Zionist entity.

Saddam Husayn said that any one who deals with the enemy will be making concessions without getting anything in return. Referring to the question of flexibility in revolutionary action, he said: Our party realizes the importance of flexibility as one of the formulas of revolutionary action. However, our party's flexibility differs substantially from the flexibility of others, who use it as a cover for apostasy and making concessions to the enemy.

Concluding his speech, Saddam Husayn said: Political action among the masses must not stem merely from our own conviction. It is necessary to convince others with whom we are closely linked or who are our allies. A true revolutionary leader is one who reaches the top of the ladder at a record pace, together with those he is leading.

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH CUBA, BULGARIA, CHAD--Baghdad, 14 January--The Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has signed three cultural programs with Cuba, Chad and Bulgaria. Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, director of cultural relations of the ministry, who returned to Baghdad last night at the end of a visit to the three countries, said that the cultural agreement with Cuba included the basic principles for cultural cooperation between the two countries. He added that the cultural programs with Chad and Bulgaria provide for the exchange of scholarships, assistantships, and researchers as well as cooperation in the information field. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 14 Jan 78 JN]

COOPERATION WITH FRANCE--Baghdad, 14 January--An Iraqi delegation under 'Abd as-Sattar Farman, director of the Posts and Telephone General Corporation, today left for France on a visit which will last several days. The delegation will discuss with French officials the question of postal services and telecommunications and will follow up the implementation of the agreement on technical cooperation between the two countries signed in Baghdad in October 1976. The delegation will also acquaint itself with the methods of training postal, technical and engineering cadres. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0752 GMT 14 Jan 78 JN]

SULFUR TO BANGLADESH--Dacca, 14 January--According to an agreement signed here today, Iraq will supply Bangladesh with 20,000 metric tons of sulfur in 1978. The sulfur will be shipped to Bangladesh in April. The agreement was signed in Dacca by a representative of the Bangali Chemical Industries Company for Bangladesh, and by the Iraqi Embassy in Dacca for Iraq. The representative of the Bangali Chemical Industries Company said that the Iraqi sulfur is of a high quality and that Bangladesh will regularly import its annual sulfur needs from Iraq. It will be recalled that Iraq supplied Bangladesh with 10,000 metric tons of sulfur in October 1977. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 14 Jan 78 JN]

NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON INTERVIEW WITH KING HUSAYN

JN170806Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Jan 78 pp 1, 12 JN

[Text] Paris, AFP--King Husayn yesterday proposed that the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel in 1967 be placed under the supervision of an international organization to enable the population of these territories to determine their own future by themselves.

In an interview granted in Amman last night to the French television Europe I King Husayn said he considered the proposals for administrative autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza submitted by Begin unacceptable and not constructive in any way. The king added that the Palestinian people must be a committed party and take part in solving their own problems. This process would lead to a solution.

King Husayn also said that the Arabs must recover all their occupied territories and these could be placed under international supervision before the Palestinian people determine their own future by themselves. The king added: We will certainly accept the choice of this people.

King Husayn also pointed out the importance of the coming days for the results of the peace negotiations and then expressed regret that the courageous initiative of President as-Sadat has not led to a response on the same level by the Israeli Government and prime minister. King Husayn also expressed the belief that one now finds himself at a decisive and grave moment concerning the future of this area and perhaps of the entire world.

King Husayn stressed that the two basic demands of the Arabs are withdrawal from all the occupied territories and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

King Husayn pointed out that the success or failure of these negotiations depends on Israel's acceptance or rejection of these two demands.

Finally, King Husayn refused to hold negotiations on the Palestinian people's rights but said: There used to be very close ties between the Jordanians and Palestinians.

MINISTER RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM YAR FOREIGN MINISTER

JN161608Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1603 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 16 January--The Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs received a message today from the YAR foreign minister dealing with the current Arab situation and with relations between the two countries. The message was delivered by the YAR ambassador in Amman.

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE RECEIVES EEC DELEGATION

JN161606Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1547 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 16 January--Dr Najm ad-din ad-Dajani, minister of industry and trade, today discussed with a European Economic Community delegation the appropriate means to promote the Euro-Arab dialog, the results expected of this dialog and the assistance to be provided by the EEC countries to Jordan this year.

The EEC delegation is currently visiting Jordan as part of a tour of Arab countries to study aspects of cooperation for this year between the European Economic Community and these countries.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS MAKES STATEMENT TO NEWSMEN

NC151420Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today called for national detente among the Lebanese. He said the fateful issues facing the Lebanese make it incumbent upon them to join ranks and that national detente unites the Lebanese to confront such issues. Prime Minister al-Huss today made a comprehensive statement to newsmen at his home in Ad-Dawhah in which he dealt with the future of the Arab peacekeeping force and the campaigns against the government.

The prime minister said: The various parties' stands make us feel that today we are closer to detente than ever before. He added: As a result of contacts held with various parties, the government is convinced of the ncessity of a detente formula.

Answering a question, Prime Minister al-Huss said: We have always stressed that detente must assume a legal character because it must pass through the Chamber of Deputies to be included in the constitutional amendments and the necessary legislation. Parliament must adopt a decision on national detente and on the formula for detente in order to guarantee its success. Prime Minister al-Huss added that the question of detente concerns all Lebanese without exception.

Answering a question about the future of the Arab peacekeeping force in Lebanon, Prime Minister al-Huss said that the Arab peacekeeping force will remain in Lebanon as long as the legal authority requests its presence. He added that reports about the termination of the peacekeeping force's presence in Lebanon next April are premature and untimely.

Answering another question about the campaign against the government, Prime Minister al-Huss said: I am very surprised by such a campaign against the government in this phase, particularly when this campaign is based on claims that the government has failed to fulfill the pledges it has made.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: In the statement of policy, we said that political detente depends upon the will of the Lebanese to come to an understanding. This provides that no issue should take priority over detente and that no conditions should be attached to detente. We have now reached a phase in which detente is acceptable to various parties without conditions. Hence, detente is now closer than ever before. Through detente, we hope that the government will be able to solve major problems facing Lebanon. How can the government be blamed for not solving such problems when detente has not been achieved?

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS RETURNS FROM DAMASCUS

NC161834Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Fu'ad Butrus, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and defense, returned to Beirut at 1900 today from Damascus after meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Minister Butrus immediately went to the presidential palace to acquaint President Sarkis with the outcome of his talks in Damascus.

Butrus Makes Statement

NC162255Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] President Ilyas Sarkis received Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus after he returned from Damascus where he had met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in the presence of Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

On leaving the presidential palace Minister Butrus answered newsmen's questions. He said: I can say without exaggeration that my visit to President al-Asad and brother Khaddam, the discussions I had with them and the letter I conveyed to President al-Asad from President Sarkis--all took place in an extremely positive atmosphere. Understanding, a spirit of pure fraternity and mutual desire to find solutions for all the problems we are confronting here in Lebanon and the problems of the area in general which have repercussions on the Lebanese arena, prevailed at the meeting.

Asked if the subject of the implementation of agreements in the south was raised at the talks, Minister Butrus said that the talks dealt with all matters pertaining to the current phase in our history, including the south. He added: Our Syrian brothers continue to exert the necessary efforts to facilitate the reaching of a suitable solution.

In answer to a question, Minister Butrus said that President al-Asad gave him an oral message to President Sarkis.

ARMED CLASHES REPORTED IN SOUTHERN AREAS

TA161053Y Paris AFP in English 1020 GMT 16 Jan 78 TA

[Excerpt] Beirut, Jan 16 (AFP)--Rival factions traded artillery fire in southeast Lebanon early today, the third breach of the ceasefire in 48 hours, correspondents said. Reports said sporadic shelling interspersed with automatic weapons fire began late yesterday afternoon and continued until dawn.

The clash pitted conservative Christians based in Marj 'Uyun and Al-Qulay'ah against Palestinians and their Lebanese leftist allies in Al-Khiyam, At-Tayyibah, and Ibil as-Saqy, close to the border with Israel. The correspondents quoted some reports as saying Israeli artillery had backed up the conservative Christians, but there was no reliable confirmation.

INA Reports Fighting

JN170856Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 17 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 17 January--Last night and for the fourth day running, violent clashes broke out on the eastern sector's axes of the southern border area between the joint forces and right-wing elements supported by the Zionist forces.

The INA correspondent in the south has reported that the clashes, during which heavy artillery and machineguns were used, centered on the Al-Khiyam-Marj 'Uyun axis and that Zionist artillery participated.

The exchange of artillery fire continued intermittently until this morning. Losses have not yet been determined due to the complete absence of communications with the border area.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH BOUMEDIENE, OTHERS IN DAMASCUS

JN121454Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1400 GMT 12 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the forces of the revolution, yesterday met with Algerian President Houari Boumediene and brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, prime minister of the PDRY. During these meetings the leaders discussed the necessary measures to bolster and support the resolutions of the Tripoli conference of confrontation and steadfastness which was held in Tripoli, Libya, last month. The meetings also dealt with the latest developments in the situation on both the Arab and international levels and steps which should be taken to tackle these developments, which come during this stage of challenges against the Arab nation. The meeting further discussed the means to promote Algerian-Palestinian relations and PDRY-Palestinian relations.

Our correspondent has learned that President Boumediene briefed brother leader Abu 'Ammar on the contacts with Arab leaders he has made during his tour of 10 Arab capitals.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also met with the Vietnamese ambassador in Damascus. Our correspondent learned that the ambassador handed brother Abu 'Ammar a letter from the Vietnamese leadership concerning developments along the Vietnamese-Cambodian borders. The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, has learned that brother Abu 'Ammar informed the Vietnamese ambassador of his concern over current developments on the borders between the two friendly countries, Vietnam and Cambodia.

MORE ON VISIT BY LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS

Received by Al-Asad

JN161413Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 16 January--President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1330 today Fu'ad Butrus, Lebanese deputy prime minister and foreign and defense minister.

During the meeting, which was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, talks were held on the developments in the Arab region and Lebanese situation. Viewpoints regarding various topics of common concern to both countries were also exchanged.

Ministers' Remarks

JN162012Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Fu'ad Butrus, Lebanese deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expressed happiness over his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. He also expressed happiness with the fruitful and useful talks he held with 'Abd al-Halim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

In a statement before leaving Damascus for Beirut today, Fu'ad Butrus said: During my several visits to Damascus I have felt the concern of the Syrian brothers to do all they can to contribute toward safeguarding the march of peace in Lebanon. I have also felt their commitment to the Pan-Arab stands on pan-Arab issues.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, also made a statement in which he said: We held fruitful talks on all matters of interest to the two countries. Khaddam said: There is no doubt that Butrus' visit to Damascus has been of practical and great importance. On this occasion, we wish fraternal Lebanon further stability, progress and prosperity. Khaddam added: Syria affirms that it supports the principle of the return of the Palestinians to their homes. It firmly rejects in form and content the principle of settling the Palestinians where they are now because this would mean the liquidation of the Palestinian.

Butrus Departs

JN161721Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Fu'ad Butrus, Lebanese deputy prime minister and minister of defense and foreign affairs, at 1330 today. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

During the meeting President al-Asad and Minister Butrus reviewed the developments in the Arab area and the situation in Lebanon. They also exchanged views on various matters affecting the two fraternal countries.

Minister Butrus left Damascus this afternoon for Beirut.

SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN COORDINATION COMMITTEE HOLDS MEETING

JN161834Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The Syrian-Palestinian coordination committee held another meeting in Damascus yesterday to complete its discussion of the topics on the agenda.

On the Palestinian side the meeting was attended by Abu Iyad, Abu Salih, Abu Mazin and Abu Mahir, Fatah Central Council members; Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, and Salih Ra'fat, member of the Political Department of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. On the Syrian side the meeting was attended by Maj Gen Naji Jamil, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command; Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of stafff of the armed forces; and 'Ali Darbak, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command.

Our correspondent has learned that the committee has completed its study of the latest developments in the area and has accordingly adopted a number of firm measures to confront the plots being concocted against the Palestinian people and their just cause.

DAMASCUS DAILY DEEMS AS-SADAT'S FAILURE OBVIOUS

JN170635Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Jan 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "Behind the News" corner, the newspaper TISHRIN carries the following commentary: All the available signs indicate that the regime of President as-Sadat has burned all its bridges and is determined to proceed toward the pitfall of alliances with the United States, to make concessions to Israel and to form axes with the reactionary regimes and hirelings hostile to their peoples in Africa, Asia and everywhere.

TISHRIN adds: It is true that As-Sadat's course has failed in the Arab sphere and it has become obvious that it totally failed to push forward the peace talks, let alone achieve peace. This shows that As-Sadat's adventure has, in effect, ended. However, this fact must not conceal the other fact that hastening the elimination of this antipeace capitulatory phenomenon from the political scene in the Middle East requires the recruiting of the Arab forces and mobilizing them in the battle which is being waged in all fields against the enemy.

JORDANIAN SENATE SPEAKER ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS FOR TALKS

JN151841Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Bahjat at-Talhuni, president of the Arab parliamentary federation and speaker of the Jordanian Senate, arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit of several days to Syria.

He was met at the outskirts of Damascus by Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, speaker of the People's Assembly; several members of the People's Assembly; members of the federation's general secretariat; and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, At-Talhuni said: It gives me pleasure to convey the greetings of His Majesty King Husayn to his brother President Hafiz al-Asad. He added that he will meet during his visit with Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, speaker of the People's Assembly, and Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, and will discuss with them the drafting of the agenda for the next session of the Arab parliamentary federation due to convene shortly in Abu Dhabi.

Meetings in Damascus

JN161603Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 16 January--The speaker of the Jordanian Senate and president of the Arab parliamentary union met today with the speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly, the chairman of the Palestine National Council and the Moroccan ambassador in Damascus. During the meetings issues dealing with the Arab parliamentary union council meeting scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi were discussed.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE RETURNS FROM TUNISIA

LD162202Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] At 1610 today the plane carrying President Boumediene and the accompanying delegation touched down at Dar el Beyda Airport, coming from Tunis, the last leg of the tour he began on 3 January. The tour led him to Valetta, Baghdad, Riyadh, Manama, Abu Dhabi, Aden, Sana', Doha, Kuwait, Amman, Damascus, the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and finally Tunisia.

OIL MINISTER INTERVIEWED IN FRENCH MAGAZINE

LD161515Y Algiers APS in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] Paris, 16 January--Minister of Energy and Petrochemicals and Director General of Sonatrach, Ahmed Ghozali, has given an interview to the French-based magazine ARAB OIL AND GAS, in which he reviewed Algeria's oil policy and the positive results and perspectives of this policy.

Asked to evaluate last year's oil policy and whether it has achieved its objectives, the minister said, I can say that the declared objectives of last year have been achieved, reflected in a 6.78 percent increase in the production of crude oil and a 10 percent increase in the production of natural gas.

Asked about cooperation with foreign companies in oil prospecting, Ghozeli said that cooperation with these companies constitutes a source of finance to us. Furthermore, this cooperation helps to provide our national institutions with technological advantages. We will continue to cooperate with existing companies.

Asked about the progress in the development of oil and natural gas production, Ghozali said that development of production depends on existing reserves, which are definitely developing on a regular basis. There are at present 10 billion barrels of oil and 3,500 billion cubic meters of natural gas which will permit us to have an annual production of 100 billion cubic meters of gas and over 75 million tons of fuel of all types within the next 6 to 10 years. Investments over the next 4 years will be steered toward this end. During the coming stage, investment in the fuel sector has been estimated at $33 billion.

As to the fixing of Algerian oil prices, the minister said that Algeria has fixed the price of its crude oil according to the oil prices at the Arab Gulf ports, and in accordance with the OPEC prices plus costs and quality margin. In this light, considerations are made in contracts between Sonatrach and its customers to enable them to review the amount of this cost. Sonatrach prices are no secret and are fixed on a specific formula, which has enabled Sonatrach to win the trust of its customers.

Asked about refining projects which are estimated to increase capacity to 50 million tons annually, the minister said that the implementation of these projects cannot be carried out in the near future either in the field of refining or other fields. This is because implementation depends on a number of factors foremost of which is production capacity as well as some other national proprities.

Asked about agreements with some U.S. companies which are still pending final approval, the minister said the day will come when these and agreements with European companies will be implemented. But we will not give any side the opportunity to think and prepare. For if the Americans tell us they do not want gas, then our answer will be the Germans are waiting and the Swedes want it too.

Asked about the extent of Algeria's interest in developing other nonoil sources of energy, the minister said Algeria is keen on developing other sources of energy, foremost of which is nuclear energy. In this regard, he said, Algeria has decided to implement a program for the construction of nuclear centers. From now on, he added, Algeria must prepare to insure a supply of energy in the future because oil sources will dry up eventually. Thus Algeria has contemplated implementing a program for electric generation by nuclear energy. This program is still at the study stage, he added.

Algeria today relies on the small quantities of natural gas it produces. These quantities are small in relation to its consumption, which is growing.

We are also interested in developing other sources of energy particularly solar energy. We are closely watching the developments in this field by the industrial powers.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES VISITING U.S. SENATOR

LD171124Y Tripoli JANA in English 0920 GMT 17 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, January 17, JANA--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the revolution, received here yesterday American Senator James McClure, currently visiting the Jamahiriyah on invitation of the foreign liaison bureau of the General Peoples Congress.

The meeting was also attended by the secretary of liaison of the Jamahiriyah.

The American senator was also received yesterday by secretary of planning Musa Abu Furaywa. They discussed cooperation between the two countries in various fields, [words indistinct] and scientific research.

'EGYPT'S COHEN' SEEN NOT SERIOUS ABOUT RESIGNING

LD161358Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait's AL-QADAS reports today that As-Sadat seriously plans to resign if his capitulationist negotiations with Israel fail. This is not the first time Egypt's Cohen has spoken of resigning. But the Arab masses know well that Egypt's Cohen is not serious or sincere in offering to resign. He previously said he was not going to run again for the presidency of the republic but then he resorted to his entourage and those who benefit from him to stage an open maneuver to pressure him into placing his name as a candidate for a second term and so it was.

Had Egypt's Cohen not been clinging to his position, he would have resigned when he destroyed the Egyptian economy by turning it, under the pretext of an open-door economy, into a consumer economy which used the adoption of the open-door economy from the very first day to raise prices and devour whatever blood of peasants and workers and small officials in Egypt had left.

Egypt's Cohen is a liar and a charlatan. He is trying to trick the masses. It is for this reason that he resorts to such obvious maneuvers. But the Egyptian people know well the designs of this mercenary agent. The people tell him: This is an old trick, play another.

Despite all this, press observers, including the Israelis, are saying privately that Egypt's Cohen has by his idiocy overextended himself when he decided to go to Israel in humiliation and capitulation. Mere resignation will not save him. They also said that unless he is mad, then he can only be saved by suicide or by handing himself to the masses to hang in Cairo square.

PAPER REPORTS ARREST OF TRADE UNIONISTS IN EGYPT

JN1410?2Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Tripoli, 14 January--The organs of As-Sadat's regime have arrested a number of trade unionists for refusing to sign a statement supporting As-Sadat's contacts with the Zionists.

The newspaper SAWT AL-'AMIL, organ of the General Federation of the Trade Unions of the Workers of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, reports that the trade unionists, who were arrested, refused to obey orders from Minister of Manpower and Vocational Training Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad to sign a political statement on the occasion of Menahem Begin's visit to Egypt. The paper adds that the campaign of arrests and pursuit included the families of these trade unionists, and that their homes were stormed and wives interrogated.

On the other hand, the authorities of As-Sadat's regime have reinforced policy stations and patrols in Cairo and the subrubs to suppress any popular uprising on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the popular uprising, which coincides with next Wednesday and Thursday [18 and 19 January].

MOROCCO

INFORMATION MINISTER PROTESTS ALGERIAN AGGRESSION

LD162102Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] Minister of Information Mohamed Larbi Khattabi talked to foreign news agency and press reporters in Rabat about the attack committed last week in Moroccan territory by a terrorist gang which came from Algeria and killed three Moroccans and kidnaped seven others, including a child. This was near Zag in Tantan Province. Details of this attack were given by the Ministry of the Interior on 13 January.

The minister of information said that the Algerian information media continue to reiterate that the aim of the recent tour of President Boumediene to the Arab east was to unify Arab ranks. We are entitled to ask: Is the aggression against innocents and the violation of the national borders of an Arab country likely to contribute to the closing of the ranks of the Arabs so that they may devote their attention to the greater causes which are preoccupying their minds? The most recent Algerian aggression against a number of innocent Moroccan civilians provides the answer to this question.

The minister said the government, conscious of its national and international responsibilities, has taken a preliminary measure to inform international and regional organizations of the latest Algerian aggression, expressing a protest against Algeria, which organized the attack and for which it alone bears responsibility. The government asked these organizations to attempt to halt the Algerian aggression and to induce those responsible in Algeria to change their conduct in a manner conforming with international law and the conventions of dealings between sovereign nations. The government also urged that the kidnaped persons be returned to their homeland and families.

SUDAN

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI SPEAKS ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

LD162342Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 16 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Khartoum, 16 January--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has declared that his country might be compelled to withdraw its forces which are with the Arab deterrent force in Lebanon. This, he added, was due to the difficulties these forces are having in discharging their nationalist duty and in facing a number of problems in the absence of the Arab League. Furthermore, these forces' allowances have not been paid for over 3 months causing Sudan to take on commitments it had not accounted for.

The Sudanese president said in his monthly meeting which is broadcast by Sudanese radio and television that Sudan's relations with its neighboring Arab and African countries were relations of cordiality, cooperation and integration, and that there were no disagreements between his country and the sister Libyan people; the ties of religion and [word indistinct] linked them together. He added that efforts were being made to restore normal relations between the two countries.

Referring to the Sudanese-Ethiopian relations, he said that he would continue his efforts to put an end to the Eritrean question through dialog and not through violence.

Referring to efforts inside Sudan to consolidate national unity, he said that several meetings had taken place between himself and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former leader of Al-Ummah Party, on the issue and that Al-Mahdi had contacted a number of Sudanese abroad. The president also dwelt on Sudan's agricultural potential and common agricultural projects and he gave assurances that Sudan protects foreign capital invested in these projects.

TUNISIA

ALGERIA'S BOUMEDIENE CONCLUDES OFFICIAL VISIT

LD161809Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] President Houari Boumediene left Tunis at 1505 after a short visit during which he had talks with President Habib Bourguiba and Prime Minister Hedi Nouira.

The Algerian president made a statement to the radio correspondent: [begin recording]

[Boumediene] We take this opportunity to convey our personal greetings and the greetings of the Algerian people to the fraternal Tunisian people. This is not the first visit nor will it be the last to fraternal Tunisia. For some time, we have been exchanging visits to exchange views and consultations. The visit was brief, as you know, but we tried to use this brief opportunity to exchange views with our brothers here and, in particular, with President Habib Bourguiba.

Naturally, the talks concerned bilateral relations. These relations are good. I believe they are very good and they proceed toward the expansion of bilateral interests. We also discussed topical issues, Arab issues and the issues of the area in general.

I would like to speak colloquially. In the past, we lived together; today we live together and we will be together in the future. There is no other way and there is no choice. We are destined to march together toward a common future. [end recording]

PARIS PAPER REPORTS PUBLICATION OF OPPOSITION WEEKLY

LD0611053Y Paris LE MONDE in French 31 Dec 77 p 4 LD

[Michel Deure report]

[Text] Tunis--"A step in the direction of democracy is the positive result of a fresh assessment of the country's reality": It is in these terms that former Defense Minister Mr Habib Ben Ammar describes the publication in Tunis on 29 December of the first issue of the Arab langugage weekly ERRAI (OPINION), the social democratic movement organ which he edits. It is the first time that the Tunisian authorities have granted permission to publish to a newspaper belonging to declared opponents.

The social democratic movement, led by former Defense Minister Mr Ahmed Mestiri, whose members include some former top party and government leaders, waited 1 year before receiving this permission last October (LE MONDE, 26 October). Even so, they have only obtained partial satisfaction since the second weekly, DEMOCRATIE, in French, which they proposed to publish, has still not received the necessary approval.

In his editorial in this first issue of ERRAI, the tone of which is noticeably moderate, Mr Ben Ammar expresses regret at this government refusal. He also deplores the continued detention of political prisoners (about 50) and the silence of the authorities, which have not replied to visa requests submitted by a number of associations.

"We are steadfastly pursuing the struggle to insure respect of the public freedoms guaranteed by the constitution and we are doing so not only for the benefit of our movement but for any political group conducting its actions within the framework of the constitution," Mr Ben Ammar writes in particular.

In the same issue Mr Ahmed Mestiri revives the idea of a "national pact" which he proposed to President Bourguiba (LE MONDE, 5 October) and which, in his opinion, should be signed by "all political currents which believe in democracy, reject violence as a means of political action and believe in the need to safeguard the country's independence and work to build closer ties of fraternity with Arab countries."

The former minister considers that "the country is sick" at present and that "thorough diagnosis and radical and swift treatment" are necessary. He cites as proof the move by "an Arab personality" who recently intervened "to reconcile certain leaders and settle unresolved internal problems."

The allusion is to a move by PLO Executive Bureau member Mr Abu Iyad, who, in Tunis two weeks ago, reportedly brought together Prime Minister Mr Hedi Nouira and Trade Union Secretary General Mr Habib Achour, as well as other Tunisian leaders, in an attempt to defuse the crisis between the trade union federation and the government.

WESTERN SAHARA

DEFENSE MINISTRY REPORTS 7 JANUARY ACTION

LD170226Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Jan 78 LD

[Text] This evening the Saharan Defense Ministry issued a military statement on the activities of the Saharan people's forces in the northern region against the royal invading forces. The statement said that on 7 January a unit of the Saharan people's Liberation Army shelled with heavy weapons the positions of the royal army in Tifariti and, after a concentrated shelling which caused substantial losses among the invaders, attacked their forward positions. During the attack the Saharan unit seized a quantity of arms and destroyed a number of royal army vehicles and installations.

POLISARIO COLUMN HARASSES MAURITANIAN CHOUM BASE

PA140137Y Paris AFP in French 1148 GMT 13 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 13 Jan (AFP)--A POLISARIO Front column made up of some 30 vehicles "harassed" on Thursday night the Choum base located more than 200 km southwest of Zouirat on the railroad linking the mining city with the coastal town of Nouachibou, an authorized source in Nouakchott reported on Friday.

The same source said that harassment fire by the POLISARIO, using mortars and heavy machineguns, caused no casualties or damages on the Mauritanian side. There is no information of possible guerrilla losses from the counterattack by Mauritanian forces. The same authorized source said meanwhile that "traces of blood and wreckage of heavy weapons were found some kilometers from Choum."

The Mauritanian units in charge of protecting the base pursued the Saharawi column immediately following the counterattack. There is no information yet on this operation and whether French or Moroccan units participated in the action.

The POLISARIO harassment fire began around 1930 after nighfall and continued until around 2130, the Nouakchott source also announced.

ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN POLITICAL COMMITTEE TALKS BEGIN

Opening Session Relay

TA170915 [Editorial Report TA] Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 17 January switches from its main studio to the Hilton Hotel in Jerusalem to relay live the opening session of the Israel-Egypt Political Committee talks. The assembled delegations, including the Israeli headed by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, the Egyptian by Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and the American by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, are shown. Dayan opens the session, delivering the following speech in English:

The Secretary of State of the United States, the representative of the United Nations, distinguished delegates and guests, the preparations committee: I have the honor to open the meeting of the Political Committee of the peace talks in Jerusalem. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to welcome you and to express the hope that Jerusalem, the city of eternal peace, sacred to our three faiths, will inspire our talks and that we be worthy of its grace. I feel sure that we shall, all of us, do our utmost toward real achievement in the peacemaking process.

A particular word of appreciation is due to the secretary of state, who has come specially from Washington. His efforts in the cause of peace in the Middle East and, of course, those of the President of the United States, are a basic and fundamental factor in the joint efforts to this end of the people of our region.

Since the establishment of Israel, we have experienced many wars and followed them, from time to time, to reach a settlement. [as heard] Almost every expression in the dictionary has been used to describe this: cease-fire, armistice agreement, separation of forces, reduction of forces, interim agreements, step-by-step, buffer zones, demilitarized zones, UN emergency forces, UN Truce Supervision Organization and so on and so on. Only one expression is missing: peace talks. These, in the full meaning of the word, are taking place now for the first time. Israel has desired it very much through the years, but only now, thanks to President as-Sadat's readiness for it, have we reached this stage. [applause]

We are all, of course, aware of the distance between the beginning of peace talks and the concluding of a peace treaty, but we are on the right path. [applause] We know that in this committee we are faced with three main subjects: first, the principles for the achievement of peace treaties between Israel and its neighbors, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon; secondly, the principle of just solution of the problem of the Palestinian Arabs residing in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip [applause]; thirdly, an agreement on a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. [applause]

Distinguished delegates, any one of these subjects could deter anyone familiar with the problems of the Middle East, but it is, however, clear to all that these questions can be resolved only by a peace settlement, freely achieved between the parties, and not by more wars, not by acts of terrorism, not by economic boycott. No solution is to be found in these. They can only create more suffering, more destruction, more casualties and more refugees fleeing their homes. If 30 years of hostilities in the Middle East have any lesson for us, it is only that the longer we delay the peace settlement, the graver and more complex the problems become and all the harder to resolve. [applause]

Distinguished delegates, I should like to conclude with an observation addressed to all of us: A peace settlement is the alternative to war and not a substitute for war. It can only be achieved by concessions, compromise and mutual agreement. Any attempt to solve our problems and differences by ultimatums would miss the whole point, destroy the very purpose of the peace talks. The only way to make progress in our joint task is to explore the various problems and search for agreed solutions. We may have to adopt unconventional approaches at times, but the problems that we face and the situations we find ourselves in are also not conventional.

Thirty years of hostility to Israel and of refusal to accept her existence have left their mark. A great deal of good will, wisdom and imagination are called for in order to open up a new page and to pave the road to peace. Thank you.

After Dayan concludes his speech, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamil, also speaking in English, makes the following speech:

Gentlemen: It is indeed inspiring that we meet here in the city of peace, which is most sacred to us all. The time has come, after 30 years of bitter and mortal strife between the peoples of this region, when we must resolve to live together in a world of peace and justice and avoid the hideous tragedy of senseless waste and misery.

It was only appropriate and natural that this process of peace be initiated by President as-Sadat since Egypt, with its cultural heritage, geographical position and human resources, has always, for the last 7,000 years, borne a special responsibility in the region. It has always lived up to the challenge of history and its destiny is to continue to do so as an integral part of the Arab world.

Because we believe in the most sacred fundamental rights of all peoples, because together with all peoples of the United Nations we believe that we must save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, because we must endeavor to lay aside the anger and hatred in our hearts by eradicating aggression and injustice, we have come here today to continue the process of peace initiated by President as-Sadat on November 20th, which received overwhelming support. As a manifestation of this support, we appreciate today the active participation of Secretary of State Vance, whose tireless efforts will no doubt contribute to the progress of our work. We also welcome at our meeting the presence of the representative of the secretary general of the United Nations.

We have not come to seek a separate peace or a temporary peace. We have come to Jerusalem, where from time immemorial human destiny has experienced an encounter with the Divine. We have to speak of a just and comprehensive peace based on withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied by Israel since June 1967, including Jerusalem, the holy city of peace. We have come to achieve the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people, who have been struggling for decades to end their subjugation and their diaspora, to exercise their national rights in accordance with the most sacred principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples. It would be tragic that you should deny the existence of this Palestinian reality, especially when we have declared our readiness to accept you as part of the Middle East. Would you let the deception of futile argument ruin this unique opportunity when peace can become a dweller of your fields and homesteads? Can you not see that the Palestinian peoples are no less entitled than any other people to achieve their legitimate rights? There will be no real peace in Palestine for the house of Israel unless there will be an equal house there for the Palestinian people.

Let us work together with vision and imagination, with courage and dedication, transcending formalities and polemics, to erect the permanent structure of the comprehensive and lasting peace for all the peoples of the area based on law and justice. Let us work for the day when we can build the "city of true virtue" [al-madina al-fazila--last four words in Arabic] in the land of Palestine. Thank you.

After Foreign Minister Kamil ends his speech, Secretary Vance speaks until 0921 GMT. Dayan then announces then announces that the meeting is adjourned, to be reconvened in an hour. A correspondent notes that the latter session will be a closed one. The delegations are then shown leaving the negotiating table, and the live relay ends at 0925 GMT.

Vance's Arrival Reported

TA161756Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jan 78 TA

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's plane landed here a short while ago and, before the news bulletin, we now switch over to our correspondent Dan Eshel, who is at Ben-Gurion Airport:

[Eshel--live] The plane arrived, the carpet was rolled out, the visitor stepped, as is customary, on the red carpet, shook hands with those waiting to welcome him and approached the microphone with his Israeli counterpart.

[Dayan--in English; recorded] I'll say that last time when we met here, I said that at that time, a crucial time, it was very helpful that you came. And I didn't really know at that time that this time I would have to use it, but this time it is...

[Eshel--translating Dayan's remarks into Hebrew and continuing] ...It is important for us to see that you sacrificed your time and came here to be with us and help us at this hour. I know the great quantity of work you have to shoulder. This evening the prime minister is waiting for you, and tomorrow my Egyptian colleague is waiting for you. And then the opening of the conference and the official and unofficial talks, and so forth. The only justification to give you so much work, Dayan continued, is that it brings peace to the Middle East.

The secretary of state responded to Mr Dayan with words of thanks:

[Dayan--in English, recorded] ...And I think that really it's worthwhile doing it. Thank you very much for coming, Mr Secretary.

[Vance--recorded] Thank you very much, Mr Minister. We stand very happy to be back in Israel again. I come at this time with the sense of the importance of this moment in history.

Tomorrow, the United States will join with Israel and Egypt in Jerusalem, the city of peace, in negotiations for peace. President Carter has asked me to represent the United States at the opening in Jerusalem of negotiations in the Political Committee of the Cairo conference.

[Eshel--translating Vance's remarks into Hebrew and continuing] ...In order to demonstrate the extent of our commitment to this step toward peace. This meeting of the foreign ministers of Israel and Egypt shows what a long way the parties have come since they broke down the barriers that had delayed the discussions. The leadership of President as-Sadat and Prime Minister Begin created this unique opportunity. The parties have now advanced to the difficult subjects they will be discussing to reach peace. The United States will be taking an active part and it is committed to actively supporting the search for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

Tonight Mr Vance will meet with Prime Minister Menahem Begin and tomorrow with his and Mr Dayan's counterpart, Ibrahim Kamil. From Ben-Gurion Airport I now return the broadcast to Jerusalem.

Kamil Meets Siilasvuo

NC161540Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today held a meeting with Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, the general coordinator of the UN Emergency Forces in the Middle East. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and Egypt's permanent UN delegate Dr Ismat 'Abd al-Majid attended. The meeting lasted about an hour, and the discussions dealt with the question of the UN participation in the Political Committee and the importance of the UN role in the peace efforts.

The radio correspondent reports that the importance of the UN role is that the negotiations in the Political Committee will take place within the framework of the Cairo preparatory conference, in which the United Nations participated, that the legal bases of the forthcoming negotiations will be the UN principles and aims in accordance with its charter, and that the desired just and durable peace can be achieved only if the UN resolutions, including Resolutions 242 and 338, are implemented.

The radio correspondent further reports that during the meeting General Siilasvuo expressed his complete readiness to work for the success of the negotiations.

The radio correspondent also reports that the UN participation came as a result of Egypt's desire to make the United Nations participate in the peace negotiations, particularly at this decisive phase.

Weizman Meets Egyptian Delegates

TA161837Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman met this evening for about an hour with the heads of the Egyptian delegation to the Political Committee. Earlier, he paid a courtesy visit on the head of the delegation, Egypt's Foreign Minister Ibrahim Kamil, after which he conferred for about three-quarters of an hour with Kamil's deputy, Butrus Ghali.

The spokesman of the Egyptian delegation said that Mr Weizman reported to the Egyptian deputy foreign minister on the discussions of the Military Committee. He refused to elaborate on precisely what was discussed.

Cairo Radio Report

NC1620277 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil met with Israeli Defense Minister Gen. 'Ezer Weizman this evening. The meeting lasted 30 minutes.

After the meeting, the defense minister told the radio correspondent that his departure for Cairo on Thursday means that the meetings of the Military Committee are progressing well.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said that his meeting with 'Ezer Weizman comes within the framework of the preparatory meetings to prepare for the meetings of the Political Committee which will begin tomorrow morning. He added that he has met with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and that he will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance tomorrow morning.

The foreign minister further said that the meetings of the Political and Military committees will continue regardless of the points made, whether positive or negative. He added that the committees have been charged with discussing specific matters and that they will continue their activities to realize the desired aims.

It has been learned from the radio correspondent that the foreign minister is in touch with Cairo to keep President as-Sadat abreast of the results of the meetings he is holding.

Dayan Briefs Knesset Committee

TA170656Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Dayan has briefed a special session of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee of the Knesset. Dayan detailed the agenda plan accepted by Israel and Egypt. He also outlined the Israeli position for the Political Committee talks.

Vance Meets Begin

TA170635Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Jan 78 TA

[Excerpt] President Carter has sent a personal message to Prime Minister Begin in connection with the opening of the deliberations of the Political Committee. The message was handed to him by Secretary of State Vance yesterday. The talk lasted about an hour and a half. Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan took part in the second part of the meeting.

The prime minister refused to speak about the content of the message sent to him by President Carter. He remarked, however, that this was one of the warmest letters he has ever received from Carter.

As for the chances of the negotiations, the prime minister said that there are differences of opinion and patience is needed. Nonetheless, there is good hope, and peace should be given a chance.

This morning, before the Political Committee beings its deliberations, Cyrus Vance will confer with the Egyptian foreign minister, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil.

Vance-Schindler Meeting

TA170824Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state ended his talk with Rabbi Alexander Schindler a few minutes ago. The meeting lasted about half an hour.

Rabbi Schindler told our correspondent Dan Eshel that Secretary Vance wanted to hear his impressions of his visit to Cairo and the content of his talks with President as-Sadat and several other Egyptian leaders. Secretary Vance also wanted to learn details about the atmosphere in Israel and what can be done to speed up the peace process. Rabbi Schindler emphasized to our correspondent his satisfaction with the role the United States is playing in the deliberations. He is now going to return to the United States.

Egyptian Spokesman's Press Conference

NC162024Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1952 GMT 16 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Jerusalem, 16 January--Dr Mursi Sa'd ad-Din, the official spokesman of the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the Political Committee, has denied the report which was carried by Israel radio this evening to the effect that Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will meet with Israel Prime Minister Menahem Begin tonight. He said that the first meeting between the foreign minister and Mr Begin will take place at the dinner which the Israeli prime minister will host tomorrow evening in honor of the three foreign ministers.

At a press conference this evening, Dr Mursi Sa'd ad-Din appealed to everyone to refrain from making statements which could harm the atmosphere of the discussions which will begin tomorrow. He referred in this regard to the statement which the Egyptian Information Ministry issued yesterday.

Dr Mursi Sa'd ad-Din denied any knowledge about the participation of the Egyptian foreign minister in the press conference which Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is expected to hold tomorrow. He expressed his belief that the Egyptian foreign minister will not hold a press conference before the Political Committee holds several sessions, so that he will have what he needs to brief the press.

Asked about the possible departure of the Egyptian foreign minister together with the U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance for Cairo on Thursday, Dr Sa'd ad-Din said: This will depend on the system which will be followed, on the procedural work of the Political Committee. He added: If the meetings proceed along the same pattern as the Cairo meetings, then there will be 3 free days: Friday, Saturday and Sunday. These days will allow the Egyptian foreign minister to travel, but right now I can neither confirm nor deny the matter.

Further Report

NC162126Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] Dr Mursi Sa'd ad-Din, the official spokesman of the Egyptian delegation to the Political Committee meetings, has stated that the Political Committee will begin meeting with a public session at 1100 tomorrow. He added that agreement has been reached on the committee's agenda but that the agenda will not be announced before it is approved by the Political Committee at its meeting tomorrow.

Dr Sa'd ad-Din further said that it has been possible to agree on an agenda which guarantees a commitment to the Egyptian stand.

Dr Mursi Sa'd ad-Din also said that UN participation affirms Egypt's commitment to the UN resolutions and that, because of U.S. connections with Israel, the United States can by its presence facilitate matters between the two sides.

W. Bank Self-Rule Not Acceptable

LD162301Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2132 GMT 16 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Dr Mursi Sa'd ad-Din, official spokesman of the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the Political Committee in Jerusalem, has stressed that Egypt will not accept the self-rule project for the West Bank in any form, nor will Egypt accept anything the Palestinians do not accept. He said in a statement broadcast by Israeli radio that he didn't believe that the United States was really unable to convince the Israeli leaders to grant the Arabs their rights.

Agenda Publication Protested

TA161904Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The Egyptian delegation spokesman reported his delegation has decided not to present the working papers it prepared in Cairo to the Israeli delegation. He said his delegation opposed the publication of the committee agenda before it had been adopted by the committee. The agenda will be the first item to be discussed during the committee deliberations tomorrow.

The Egyptian spokesman also said that notables from Judaea and Samaria had requested to meet with the Egyptian delegation. The Egyptians replied in the affirmative, but no date for the meeting had been set.

First Closed Meeting Ends

TA171127Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The first closed meeting of the Political Committee ended about half an hour ago. The three foreign ministers participated in this meeting.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that two documents dealing with the issues on the agenda of the committee were exchanged in the meeting. The documents were exchanged between the Israeli and the Egyptian delegations and were also handed to the U.S. delegation. They were not handed to the UN observer. It was decided that the next meeting of the committee will be held tomorrow at 1500 [1300 GMT]. The spokesman of the two delegations announced that the brief meeting at noon today, which lasted only 15 minutes, was conducted in a friendly manner.

In the course of today and tomorrow further contacts will be held between the parties. This afternoon Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will convene a press conference. For the time being it is not yet known whether the Egyptian foreign minister and U.S. secretary of state will take part. This evening the prime minister will host the three delegations at a dinner to which 180 people are invited.

Denial on Rafah Concession

TA161814Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister's office in Jerusalem has vigorously denied a statement by the spokesman of the Egyptian delegation in Jerusalem alleging that Mr Begin, while in Ismailia, had promised President as-Sadat to remove the Jewish settlements from the Rafah approaches.

Our political correspondent Shalom Qital says that the reaction at the prime minister's office was: This is a fantastic invention, if one is to use clean language. A statement handed to our political correspondent says the opposite is true. In Ismailia the prime minister presented the president and his advisers with the Israeli plan and this plan explicitly includes the formulation that the settlements in the Rafah approaches will remain where they are, with an Israeli defense force. Mr Begin, the statement says, went on to explain to the Egyptian president that in view of our generation's experience it is a principle with us not under any circumstances to leave a Jewish settlement without Israeli protection.

Details in DAVAR

TA170953Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Jan 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Dani'el Bloch]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said yesterday in a conversation with the DAVAR correspondent that the agenda agreed on for the debates of the Political Committee is mainly an original Israeli proposal. The Egyptian proposal was not accepted, and only a few of the elements proposed by the United States were accepted.

Begin vigorously denied reports and commentaries to the effect that Israel had given way to American or Egyptian demands. In his view, the agenda was good from Israel's point of view and represented a good and positive basis for the opening of the Political Committee's debates in a good and helpful spirit.

Analyzing the clauses of the agenda, Mr Begin said that the first clause concerned a statement of principles which would determine the negotiations for a comprehensive peace agreement in the Middle East. This clause dealt with the statement of principles which had already served as the topic of debate during the conference in Ismailia. The second and main clause, in the prime minister's opinion, determines, in the Hebrew text, guidelines for the negotiations on the issues of the areas of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, and in the English text accepted by Egypt mention is made of the areas of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The prime minister emphasized the fact that in this clause the Palestinian question is not referred to at all, although he did not dismiss the possibility that this issue would be put forward by the Egyptians during the debates on this clause. The third clause in the agenda speaks of the components of the peace treaty between Israel and its neighbors, in accordance with the principles of Security Council Resolution 242.

The prime minister also explained yesterday that he had been incorrectly quoted as having threatened to resign if an evacuation of the Israeli settlements in the Rafah approaches was demanded. Begin pointed out that, at the meeting with the U.S. congressmen, he had said that no cabinet in Israel would gain a majority in the Knesset voting if he proposed evacuating the settlements. And in such a case, he would prefer to get in first and submit his letter of resignation to the president of the state.

17 Jan Press Comment

TA170707Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Jan 78 TA

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] DAVAR writes that the crisis that had been settled with much difficulty on the eve of the opening of the Political Committee deliberations reminded us of the meaning of the developments which may decide between peace and a renewed, more intense tension in the region. In this respect, the deliberations of the Political Committee carry special importance. It is the first days that will be crucial, according to the paper.

HA'AREZ says that the political negotiations are beginning now; therefore, we should remind our Egyptian guests that negotiations do not mean that one party dictates ultimatum conditions to the other. This warning should be made, since the impression we increasingly get lately is that Cairo expects and also considers it its right to expect that Israel will agree to the demands made by As-Sadat in his speech in the Knesset. The paper is of the opinion that the leaders and the public in Egypt should be told that our restraint should not be interpreted to mean that Israel is ready to play a passive role in the Political Committee.

HAMODI'A thinks that much importance should be attached to the fact that the U.S. secretary of state is participating in the deliberations at the head of a U.S. delegation. There are indeed fears that the large gap between the two parties will give Vance a strong position, and he may overuse it in favor of the Egyptian positions. However, his active presence in the debates of the conference is good for the purpose of bridging gaps or diminishing crises.

HAZOFE on the same matter writes that the chances of the negotiations will be real when the U.S. delegation helps us prove to the Egyptians that the desired peace involves defense arrangements and borders for the State of Israel.

Afternoon Editorials

TA171046Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Jan 78 TA

[Review of afternoon press editorials]

[Text] The Political Committee is opening in Jerusalem in a sober atmosphere after a 24-hour delay, and both papers seek to establish the room for maneuvering which the parties will have in the negotiations.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT is of the opinion that Begin's large political credit has been exhausted. It is for this reason that he has announced that if he is pressured into making additional concessions he will have to resign. The Egyptians and the Americans should understand this so they will know when to lift the pressure, since otherwise everything will come to nothing.

MA'ARIV also believes that all parties should understand the limits set by Israel, limits beyond which it cannot go under any circumstances. No concession or compromise that may jeopardize our very existence and security or make us dependent on others can be acceptable. Nevertheless, the paper believes that a large space for maneuvering remains between As-Sadat's further steps and the limits set by the government.

PERES, EBAN COMMENT ON POSSIBLE TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE

TA171022Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Jan 78 p 3 TA

[By DAVAR Knesset correspondent]

[Text] Were the Alinement now leading the country, it would in principle prefer territorial compromise in Judaea and Samaria to a compromise in administration. It may be that the Alinement would turn to the possibility of a two-stage settlement in Judaea and Samaria, so that for a certain period of time there would be an Israeli-Jordanian federative rule in the West Bank. After that, an agreement would be reached about final borders.

These remarks were made yesterday by the chairman of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, at a meeting with members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. MK Abba Eban also participated in the meeting.

With regard to the possibilities for a settlement in Sinai, MK Peres said that there was a vital need to guarantee Israeli rule in the Rafah approaches and that a full concession of Sinai would mean a dramatic lessening of Israel's airspace at a time when, even if a peace agreement were signed with Egypt, air forces hostile to Israel remained in the Middle East.

MK Abba Eban explained that were the Alinement program to be accepted, most of the inhabitants of the West Bank would be citizens of the independent Jordanian state. He rejected the possibility of a division between sovereignty and territory, and emphasized that sovereignty over those territories vital to Israel was to be guaranteed.

WEIZMAN TO TAKE NEW PROPOSALS TO MILITARY COMMITTEE

TA171154Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister Weizman will carry with him to Cairo the day after tomorrow new proposals for the discussions of the Military Committee. Our correspondent Beni Rom has learned that these proposals also pertain to the airfields in the Sinai and the Rafah approach settlements, two issues on which the deliberations of the committee reached a dead end.

Minister Weizman persists in his position that intensive work should be carried out continuously in the Military Committee. Therefore, it has been decided that a representative of his will remain in Cairo permanently and will continue the talks without a break.

The Egyptian war minister informed Minister Weizman that in his opinion the talks in the Military Committee should not depend on the developments of the Political Committee. Senior sources in Israel state, however, that the deliberations of both committees will effect each other.

There is a possibility that during his visit to Cairo this week the defense minister will meet with President as-Sadat again. Minister Weizman will be accompanied on his trip the day after tomorrow by his wife, the head of the military intelligence branch of the general headquarters and a representative of the Foreign Ministry. The deliberations will begin at 1800 [1600 GMT] but they will be preceded by informal contacts.

ISRAEL TO LET EGYPT LICENSE SINAI SETTLERS' WEAPONS

TA1515[illegible]Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 15 Jan 78 p 2 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff and Yehuda Litani, HA'AREZ representatives in Cairo]

[Text] Israeli representatives have informally told Egypt that they are prepared to agree to allow the settlers in the Rafah approach settlements that will remain to be required, just as any Egyptian citizen, to obtain permits from Egyptian authorities for the weapons they will carry for their defense. Although the Egyptians, in their public declarations, are opposed to the presence of the Israeli settlements in Sinai, they continue, in the informal talks, to examine Israel's intentions on the matter just as they examine Israel's intentions on other disputed matters.

Among other things, the Israeli representatives were asked what type of defensive weapons they meant. They replied that they meant internal defense within the settlements only and not heavy weapons. They also said that if Egypt agrees to allow such a settlement, Israel will agree that the weapons of the "defensive force" in the settlements will be carried under an Egyptian permit as is customary in other areas of Egyptian territory.

Egyptian sources said that this proposal indeed consitutes an Israeli recognition of Egyptian sovereignty, but that Egypt will not deal with it before it knows the fate of the Israeli settlements at the end of the stages of withdrawal. They said that during the final stage of withdrawal the settlements will have to be evacuated.

DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING RAFAH SETTLEMENTS REPORTED

Proposal on 50 Settlements

TA151616Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Jan 78 p 4 TA

[By Yosef Waxman]

[Text] A professional program (which has nothing to do with the new political situation) proposes the establishment of an additional 50 settlements in the Rafah approaches.

The plan, which is aotually a recommendation, was prepared by the joint committee of the Agriculture Ministry and the Zionist Federation settlement department in the framework of the "southern project," whose final aim is: the establishment of 100 settlements in the south.

In the first stage, 15 settlements were set up in this framework, some of them in the Rafah approaches and others nearby, within the boundaries of "the green line." A committee of experts had recently been appointed to examine the way the project has been implemented so far. When the committee ended its work it submitted its recommendations: to continue implementing the project and to set up 50 settlements consisting of about 6,000 families in the region of the Rafah approaches. Most of the recommendations pertain to the kind of settlements that should be set up, the kinds of agriculture that should be developed and so on.

Another recommendation discussed the methods that should be adopted in order to make the intensive agriculture prevailing in the Rafah approaches profitable so that it can proceed without national subsidy or support.

The director general of the settlement department, Shim'on Ravid, told the MA'ARIV correspondent yesterday that the plan is purely professional and has not at all taken into consideration the political situation and the negotiations now being conducted with Egypt.

Knesset Members' Visit

NC151300Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Seven of the Knesset's Foreign and Defense Committee members, including the committee's vice chairman, Yizhaq Navon, are now visiting the Rafah salient settlements. This morning the members of the committee met with the Yamit settlers and later toured three settlements.

Knesset member Navon told our correspondent that the committee's members want to study the problems of the region at close hand and to get an impression of the importance of settlements in the Rafah salient, which must be viewed solely in connection with the peace settlement which will be achieved in the Middle East.

Nahal Settlement's Status

TA151309Y Jerusalem POST in English 15 Jan 78 p 2 TA

[By POST reporter Zvi Arenstein]

[Excerpts] Kfar Darom--This former nahal outpost and pre-1948 settlement--about halfway between Gaza and Yamit--was quietly transformed into a civilian settlement sometime during the last few weeks.

The fact emerged when a couple, formerly of Beersheba and now of Kfar Darom, announced the birth of their fourth child. The family of Tova and Shmu'el Finkelstein are among the civilians who moved in when the army handed the settlement over.

The re-established Kfar Darom is the 14th Jewish civilian settlement in the area defined by the Jewish Agency as the southern project. It pushes the Jewish settlement line about 5 kilometers above Moshav Netzer Hazani, (near Khan Yunis), formerly the northernmost point of civilian Jewish settlement in the strip.

Kfar Darom was one of the 11 settlements established on the eve of Yom Kippur in 1946, and was at that time associated with Hapo'el Hamizrahi.

Land Preparation Reported

TA161329Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The work of preparing land in the Rafah approaches will end by the end of the week. Eight sites will be prepared, each covering about 15 dunams. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that it is not known now in the Zionist Federation settlement department what will be done with the prepared areas. The work in question was endorsed by the government last week.

Our correspondent reports that the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs will convene the day after tomorrow and will apparently discuss the use to be made of the prepared areas in addition to discussing the acts of settlement in the Rafah approaches. Ten pieces of heavy equipment of the Jewish National Fund are at work in the region. The preparation of each site will cost 300,000 Israeli pounds.

SAUDI MINISTER GIVES SHAH KING KHALID MESSAGE

LD151830Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 15 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Minister Khalatbari, commenting on the visit to Teheran by Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi Arabian foreign minister, told a correspondent of the PARS NEWS AGENCY this afternoon that his highness the Saudi Arabian foreign minister came to Teheran to give a message from His Majesty King Khalid to the shah and that he delivered the message at his audience today. The shah also expressed his views on the content of the message in a brotherly message addressed to His Majesty King Khalid.

Mr Khalatbari added: Since the attitude and assessment of the two friendly countries regarding the current Middle East situation and the possible dangers steming from a failure to establish peace are identical, it was decided that the two countries should continue to exchange views in the future.

NIGERIA'S CHIEF OF STAFF ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD142244Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 2000 GMT 14 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Brigadier Yar'Adua, the prime minister of Nigeria [as heard], arrived in Teheran this evening and was welcomed by Mr Jamshid Amuzegar, the prime minister, a group of state officials and representatives of foreign countries residing in Teheran. The prime minister of Nigeria is accompanied on this visit by the ministers of oil and agriculture and a team of that country's high-ranking experts. The first round of talks between the Iranian and Nigerian prime ministers will start at the Prime Ministry tomorrow.

Received by Shah

LD161225Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 16 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The shah received Brig Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, the prime minister of Nigeria, at Niavaran Palace at noon today. Jamshid Amuzegar, the prime minister; the foreign minister; the minister of agriculture and rural development and the minister of finance and economic affairs of our country, and the Nigerian ministers of oil and agriculture and the charge d'affaires of the Nigerian Embassy in Teheran, had the honor of being present at this audience.

Amuzegar Hosts Dinner for Yar'Adua

LD161415Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0400 GMT 16 Jan 78 LD

[Text] At the dinner given in Teheran by Prime Minister Jamshid Amuzegar last night in honor of Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, the prime minister of Nigeria, Amuzegar said: Today Nigeria enjoys an important position not only in Africa but throughout the world. We know that the reputation and credibility of Nigeria as one of the leaders of the Third World nations have to a large extent stemmed from the decisive determination of your country about the exploitation of extensive human resources and natural riches in the direction of attaining your great aims and aspirations.

Amuzegar alluded to Iranian-Nigerian talks and said: We discussed issues of world and mutual interests to the two countries and I am glad to point out that Iran and Nigeria have similar views on many important world issues. We have endeavored to expand our ties with the African countries on the basis of respect, understanding, friendship and mutual cooperation, and, as far as possible, we have struggled to help establish peace, stability and progress in that continent.

On southern Africa, Iran wants the end of foreign domination in Namibia, the establishment of majority rule in Zimbabwe and the end of the harmful policy of racial discrimination in South Africa. Our two countries have similar views on world economic issues too. Both countries are struggling for the full realization of a new economic order in the world arena on the basis of the decisions of the sixth and seventh special UNGA sessions.

The Nigerian prime minister said: We had beneficial and fruitful talks in which issues to mutual interest to the two countries as well as international issues were discussed. In order to (?utilize) technology for progress, we ought to use the experience of Iran, which has attained striking progress in cultural and social areas.

He continued: Concerning world issues, I am glad to point out that our two governments and nations have identical views on world peace, especially on the issues of the Middle East region and the Horn of Africa, and show a common inclination for the self-determination of nations regardless of their race and nationality. We are interested in seeing a fairer and more equal economic order established in these areas so that the gap between rich and poor nations is removed.

The Nigerian prime minister, who is in our country on the invitation of Jamshid Amuzegar, held his first round of talks in Teheran yesterday.

KALATBARI MEETS WITH JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER

LD141655Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 14 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Mr Abas Ali Khaltbari, our country's foreign minister, today met with Mr Sunao Sonoda, the Japanese foreign minister. At this meeting, our country's foreign minister told his Japanese counterpart: Relations between the two countries are very close and friendly and we have always attached extraordinary importance to Japan as a major Asian country.

The Japanese foreign minister, who arrived in Teheran this morning for a 2-day visit, told correspondents at the airport: Japan wants to make endeavors toward developing the two countries' relations in the fields of cultural, artistic and technological exchanges. Alluding to the latest OPEC session in Caracas, the Japanese foreign minister commended Iran's measures to stabilize oil prices and said: This measure will considerably help the improvement of the international economy.

During his stay in Teheran, the Japanese foreign minister will hold talks with some of our country's officials about achieving peace and tranquillity in the region and the expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

KAYHAN PRAISES SHAH VISIT IN SUPPORT OF AS-SADAT

LD132220Y Teheran PARS in English 2115 GMT 13 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, 13 Jan. PARS--In a commentary on Thursday the Persian-language KAYHAN commented on the recent visit of His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Aryamehr to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, saying that it had added fresh air to the Middle East atmosphere and the peace talks. Taking place as it did after the shahanshah's talk with President Carter and King Husayn, it was indeed a step in support of President as-Sadat's peace efforts, and played an important role in maintaining momentum of the peace talks started by the visit of President as-Sadat to Israel and continued by Begin's trip to Egypt.

His imperial majesty's statements following his talks with President as-Sadat are evidence of the fact that the Egyptian president is ready to do anything in his power in order to achieve peace, observed the commentary. Israel can be sure that As-Sadat will show as much flexibility as any Arab leader can show. Therefore, any action that weakens the position of President as-Sadat and undermines his effort will be to the disadvantage of Israel more than anyone else. Regardless of the danger of his attempt to settle the Middle East problem, President as-Sadat has made a move towards peace, and now it is the turn of the Israeli leaders to go beyond traditional politics and aim for their long-term advantage rather than the short-term benefits of their parties, stated KAYHAN. Referring to this fact, the shahanshah said: Egypt has proved her courage, and the ball is now in Israel's court.

Opinion polls in the U.S. Congress and Senate and among the U.S. public show that the majority of the Americans believe that President as-Sadat cannot go any further in his peace attempts. Therefore, even the United States, whose support is one of the basic elements in Israel's continued survival, will not approve of Israel's irrational responses to As-Sadat's peace move, added the commentary.

His imperial majesty's support for Presidentas-Sadat's peace initiative increases the chance of President as-Sadat's success, added KAYHAN, because this is the first time that the leader of an Islamic but non-Arab country has openly supported and approved As-Sadat's policy, said the article. It can now be expected that the majority of Islamic countries will come to the support of As-Sadat and will strengthen his position in achieving a just peace. Iran's support for the peace attempts in the Middle East is easily understandable, since as an Islamic nation Iran cannot remain different towards an issue that affects all Moslems. Israel has the land of three Islamic countries under occupation, as well as Jerusalem, one of the holiest cities of the Islamic world.

As-Sadat now speaks from a strong position and Israel cannot expect to impose an unjust peace upon Egypt. If a conference were held with the participation of the 35 Islamic countries, the As-Sadat plan would be approved by the great majority. In addition, the Asian, African, and Western bloc countries also approve of As-Sadat's policy, and, as mentioned above, the United States has no choice but to approve it. At present only Iraq, Libya, Algeria, and South Yemen have opposed As-Sadat. But these countries, which are being supported by the Soviet Union, have not introduced any policy to replace As-Sadat's. And in any case they will not show any more flexibility than As-Sadat, added the commentary.

All these realities are indications of the political isolation of President as-Sadat. Such isolation must not be a reason for Tel Aviv's individualistic stand. On the contrary, the present situation gives an opportunity to the leaders of Israel to make it clear to their people that the defeat of As-Sadat's policy may mean the blocking of the last road towards peace with the Arabic countries, concluded the commentary.

BANGLADESH

NEPALESE KING ARRIVES IN DACCA 12 JANUARY

BK121036Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 12 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The Nepalese King, Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, and Queen Aishwarya Rajya Lakshmi Devi Shah, were given a hearty and colorful reception when they arrived in Dacca this afternoon on a 4-day state visit to Bangladesh. President and Begum Ziaur Rahman received the royal guests at the airport amidst a 21-gun salute.

The Nepalese king was given a guard of honor by a smartly turned out contingent of three services while the national anthems of the two countries were played. The king was then conducted to the line of (? reception), where the vice president, Mr Justice Abdus Sattar; presidential advisors; service chiefs; diplomats; and high civil and military officials were introduced to him. Two children presented bouquets to the king and the queen.

The airport ceremony over the Nepalese king accompanied by President Zia, drove in a ceremonial motorcade to the Banga Bhavan where they would stay. The queen accompanied by Begum Zia drove in a separate car.

The 5-mile route from the airport to Banga Bhavan had been tastefully decoated with the flags of the two countries, bunting streamers and festoons. Several welcome arches with slogans "long live Bangladesh-Nepalese friendship" and "long live King Birendra" had also been put up on the route. A huge enthusiastic crowd, including school children, lined both sides of the route with flags in hand to cheer the royal guests.

Cooperation Talks Held

OW132046Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1910 GMT 13 Jan 78 OW

[Text] Dacca, Jan 13 (AFP)--Today's second round of talks between visiting Nepalese King Birendra and Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman covered "the prospect of economic cooperation and transit trade between the two countries, as well as water resources development in the region."

Briefing newsmen after hour-long talks at the presidential palace at Banga Bhavan, an official source here indicated that the "concept of a zone of peace" in the area was also included in the discussion. The source did not elaborate on the concept. The Nepalese monarch, after arriving here for a 5-day first official visit to Bangladesh midday yesterday, had 80-minute talks with President Ziaur Rahman, who was in Katmandu last month on the first leg of his whirlwind tour of Nepal, India and Pakistan.

During the 80-minute talks, both leaders spent 50 minutes mostly on bilateral and regional matters.

The 32-year old king, accompanied by Queen Aishwarya, this afternoon attended a colourful civic reception at capital Dacca's lush green Ramna Park, where a similar reception was given to British Prime Minister Callaghan when he came here early this month on an official visit which also took him to India and Pakistan.

In a brief speech at the reception, the king recalled historic and cultural ties between Bangladesh and Nepal. He said: "In our view, Dacca is still a city blended with richness of the past and vibrant with life and great expectations for the future.

"We are hopeful that Dacca will recapture its role of the past and contribute to the expansion of commercial and cultural ties with Katmandu," he said.

The king stressed that this is a prospect which "we should explore in cooperation with our common friends at a time when transit can be carried not only over land and air routes but also by the use of inland water navigation system."

The royal couple will fly to the eastern Bangladesh district of Comilla tomorrow to see rural development and agricultural projects. In the afternoon they will visit a textile exhibition now being held in Dacca. A cultural agreement between the two countries is expected to be signed tomorrow.

Agreements Signed

BK141715Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 14 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh and Nepal today signed two agreements, one relating to the establishment of a joint economic commission and the other on cultural exchanges. The agreement on a joint economic commission was signed between the presidential adviser for foreign affairs, Prof Shamsul Haq, and the Nepalese foreign minister, Mr Krishna Raj Aryal, at Banga Bhavan this afternoon.

The Presidential adviser for education, culture and sports, Syed Ali Ahsan, and the Nepalese foreign minister signed the other agreement.

Under the joint economic commission agreement, the two governments maintain liaison in the economic field and exchange information in matters regarding the economies of the two countries. They will also review the progress of economic cooperation and suggest measures for strengthening such cooperation.

The two sides also agreed to formulate proposals and submit recommendations to their respective governments for coordinated efforts in furthering economic benefits for both the countries through mutual cooperation. The joint commission will also review progress in trade and tourism between the two countries.

The agreement provides for the nomination by each country of (?two) representatives at the rank of minister to act as cochairmen of the commission. For Bangladesh, the presidential adviser for planning, Dr M.N. Huda, has been nominated as cochairman. The Nepalese nomination will be announced later. Initially, the agreement will remain valid for 5 years and it may be extended for a further period if mutually agreed upon.

The cultural agreement provides for exchanges of representatives and delegations in the fields of culture, education, science and arts. It also (? provides) for exchange of cultural, scientific and educational material besides books, periodicals and other scientific, technical and cultural publications.

The two countries will also have reciprocal visits of professors and experts for delivering lectures and conducting [words indistinct] scientific research in the institutions of each other. Reciprocal visits will also take place of literary, scientific, technical, artistic and information media personnel. The agreement is also aimed at encouraging dissemination of knowledge about culture [words indistinct] each other through radio, press and other mass media.

Speeches at Banquet

BK150932Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 15 Jan 78 BK

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman has said that the current visit of King Birendra of Nepal is a landmark in the development of bilateral relations between the two countries. At a banquet given in honor of the President and Begum Ziaur Rahman by the Nepalese king and queen, the Bangladesh president expressed the hope that the fruitful outcome of the visit will increasingly be reflected in our relations in the years to come. President Zia said we cherish the hope that we shall be moving toward closer cooperation and understanding between two countries, paving the way for greater cooperation within the region. The president said that, though short, the visit evoked a spontaneous expression of friendly feelings and good will from our people for the people of the Himalayan kingdom.

Earlier, speaking at the banquet, the Nepalese king said that as a country of the same region and as a next-door neighbor facing in many ways similar problems, it is only natural for Nepal to value her friendship with Bangladesh. The Nepalese king said both his country and Bangladesh can make valuable contributions to peace in the region.

Joint Communique Issued

BK151324Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh and Nepal have reaffirmed their faith in the principles and policies of nonalinement as well as the principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. This was stated in a joint communique issued at the end of the 4-day visit of King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and Queen Aishwarya Rajya Lakshmi Devi Shah of Nepal to Bangladesh.

The two heads of state underlined the efforts made by them for the promotion of peace, cooperation and progress in the region. They expressed satisfaction that the current situation in the region as a whole was conducive to the establishment of better relations and greater cooperation among all the countries concerned. The two leaders also noted with satisfaction the steady development of cordial relations and close cooperation between the two countries and expressed their desire to further promote these relations through frequent exchanges at various levels.

The two leaders also noted with serious concern the continuing disparity between the rich and the poor nations and the deteriorating position of the developing countries as a whole, and agreed that the establishment of a new international economic order based on equality, justice and progress for all was indispensable.

The two heads of state discussed the proposal for making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace and reiterated their support for the UN resolution in this regard.

The communique says that King Birendra of Nepal lauded the contributions of President Zia under whose leadership the people of Bangladesh are making determined efforts to consolidate the gains of liberation and to accelerate the pace of development within their own political system. President Zia also expressed his admiration for the successful nation-building efforts of the people of Nepal under the leadership of King Birendra.

The two leaders also agreed that the question of the development of water resources is one in which all the countries of the region can cooperate closely so as to enable them to share the benefits accruing from such cooperation in irrigation, power and flood control. Both the leaders agreed to the adoption of positive steps to explore the possibilities in this regard. The two leaders took the occasion to reveal the progress of various agreements existing between the two countries and agreed that there was a vast scope for greater cooperation in many sectors. An agreement on cultural, educational and scientific exchanges between the two countries was signed during the visit.

The two leaders took note of the setting up of a high-level joint economic commission for the promotion of cooperation between them, and an agreement to this effect was signed during the visit.

The king and queen of Nepal extended a friendly invitation to President and Begum Ziaur Rahman to visit to their country at a convenient time. The invitation was gladly accepted.

King Birendra Departs

BK151326Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Jan 78 BK

[Excerpt] King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and Queen Aishwarya Rajya Lakshmi Devi Shah were given a hearty and ceremonial sendoff this afternoon when they left Dacca for home at the end of a 4-day visit to Bangladesh. President and Begum Ziaur Rahman were at the airport to see the distinguished guests home.

INDIA

MAN ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER OF GANDHI

BK150430Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Delhi chief additional magistrate Mr K.K. Jain today remanded Mr Murarilal Batra to police custody for 2 days. He was arrested yesterday for carrying a pistol outside the hall where Mrs Gandhi was speaking. Batra has been charged with attempted murder under Section 307 of the Indian Penal Code. He will be produced before the magistrate again on Monday.

EGYPTIAN DEPUTY PREMIER ISMA'IL BEGINS VISIT

BK160852Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The deputy prime minister of Egypt, Mr Ahmad Sultan Isma'il, arrived in New Delhi on a 10-day visit. He was received at the airport by the minister for energy, Mr P. Ramachandran. Mr Ahmad Sultan Isma'il, who is also the minister for energy and electricity, told an AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent that Egypt wants to strengthen technical cooperation with India and that its political relations with India are good. During his stay he will have talks with the ministers of energy, industry and external affairs. He will also call on the prime minister.

SRV ENVOY APPEALS FOR HELP IN BORDER DISPUTE

BK161640Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1634 GMT 16 Jan 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 16 (AFP)--Vietnamese Ambassador to India Nguyen Van Sinh today appealed to India and "other friends of Vietnam" to help bring about a peaceful settlement of the border conflict between his country and Cambodia.

Mr. Sinh, at the same time, accused the Phnom Penh government of "distorting the truth about the border situation to slander Vietnam, systematic encroachments and violations of Vietnamese territory and butchering of Vietnamese families."

The ambassador told a press conference that his government would welcome "mediation efforts" by "friends." Answering questions, he refused to mention any third country which might be helping Cambodia, but said "imperialists and reactionaries want to divide us and that is the cause of the conflict."

Mr Sinh called on Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee early this month to explain this government's position in the conflict.

USSR ENVOY TO INDIAN OCEAN TALKS ARRIVES IN DELHI

BK1616311Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1622 GMT 16 Jan 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 16 (AFP)--L.I. Mendelevich, special envoy of the Soviet Government to the Soviet-American talks on the Indian Ocean, arrived here this morning for a 2-day visit.

Official sources said he would brief the Indian Government on the progress of the talks on the ocean which last took place early December in Bern. They added that the two sides had been discussing the question of demilitarisation of the ocean since the middle of last year. Some progress had been achieved but they could not reveal the details, they said.

ITALY'S FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT INDIA 23-27 JAN

BK1615391 Delhi ISI in English 1506 GMT 16 Jan 78 BK

[Text] At the invitation of Minister of External Affairs Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Arnaldo Forlani, minister of foreign affairs of the government of the Republic of Italy, will be visiting India from January 23 to 27.

During his stay in New Delhi Forlani will have discussions with Atal Bihari Vajpayee and witness the Republic Day parade. He will also call on the prime minister.

NEPAL

KING BIRENDRA RETURNS AFTER 4-DAY BANGLADESH VISIT

BK1515201 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 15 Jan 78 BK

[Excerpt] Their majesties the king and queen were accorded a warm, hearty and loyal welcome on arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport this afternoon after the 4-day state visit to the People's Republic of Bangladesh at the friendly invitation of President Ziaur Rahman.

YUGOSLAV VICE PRESIDENT TO VISIT IN JANUARY

BK1315221 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 13 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The vice president of the presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Stevan Doronjski, is to pay an official visit to the Kingdom of Nepal toward the end of January at the invitation of Prime Minister Kirti Nidhi Bista, the Foreign Ministry announced today.

PAKISTAN

HAQ, BRITISH PRIME MINISTER SPEAK AT BANQUET

BK1311O6Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0920 GMT 13 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said Pakistan, as a self-respecting country, cannot accept any country's hegemony or domination and will continue to seek friendly relations with all countries on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual respect. He was speaking at a banquet given by him in honor of British Prime Minister James Callaghan in Rawalpindi last night.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said Pakistan, as a victim of aggression in the past, has learned a lesson and needed an effective defense of its borders. Pakistan would not like to get involved in international rivalry nor in the arms race. Pakistan's only interest was in the security of its borders. He said Pakistan wanted that South Asia should be made free from nuclear weapons, whether these weapons were produced by big powers or by the countries of the region. The presence of such weapons of destruction made the smaller countries, like Pakistan, feel threatened and insecure. As long as they felt insecure they could not concentrate their energies and resources to improving the lives of the common man.

Referring to the Indo-Pak relations, he said Pakistan was striving for normalizing relations with India. But a real success in this direction will be possible only if the Kashmir problem is resolved in accordance with the UN resolution. It was their endeavor that this problem be resolved as early as possible so that the two neighboring countries could move forward as friends.

Replying, the British prime minister said Britain valued their friendship with Pakistan. They would be glad to support Pakistan's economic development with increased aid. A British economic commission would visit Pakistan next month to discuss new projects.

Mr Callaghan paid tribute to Pakistan for its contribution to the process of improvement of atmosphere in South Asia. He said Pakistan has a number of qualifications for playing an important role in international affairs, like the north-south dialog, in view of its substantial link with the Islamic world and South Asian countries.

Callaghan Addresses Press Conference

BK1307291 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The British prime minister, Mr James Callaghan, has said that he had interesting and worthwhile talks in Rawalpindi today with the chief martial law administrator [CMLA], Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq. Addressing a news conference in Rawalpindi this afternoon, he said these talks would lead to still closer relations and better understanding between Britain and Pakistan. He spoke of the links of history, the links of language and the links of law between the two countries. This relationship, he said, has great promise for the future and he reaffirmed Britain's desire to work in close cooperation with Pakistan.

Mr Callaghan announced that Britain has increased its aid to Pakistan to 20 million pounds for the current year. This was a grant that was not to be repaid. He said Britain plans to increase its assistance to Pakistan year by year right until 1980-81. He said Britain was also ready to assist Pakistan in meeting the difficulties that it was facing at the Tarbela Dam. He was sure that they would be able to overcome these difficulties.

Mr Callaghan said he had also discussed with the CMLA a number of matters relating to trade. He said there was a general desire on the part of Britain and Pakistan to promote trade. He said he had been informed by the CMLA that the Pakistan Government had agreed to set up a tractor plant in association with a British firm. This plant with 49 percent equity from the British firm would produce 10,000 tractors annually. Referring to the British insurance companies in Pakistan nationalized in 1972, he said he was happy that the Pakistan Government would insure that these companies were paid compensation.

Mr Callaghan said he had been told by the CMLA that Pakistan would welcome British assistance for commercial exploitation of newly discovered natural gas fields in the country, particularly in Baluchistan. He said he would look into this possibility on his return home. He said Britain would also make available the services of one or two taxation experts to suggest measures to improve the tax structure in Pakistan.

Replying to a question about Pakistani immigrants in Britain, he said they were treated as equal citizens and there was no discrimination against them whatsoever. He said a great majority of Pakistani immigrants were working industriously and were living as good citizens of Britain. About remittances sent home by Pakistanis, he said there was no restriction on them.

On the question of divided families, the British prime minister said these cases were processed under British law and there should be no cause of delay in the proposal of genuine cases.

Replying to another question, Mr Callaghan said he had a long discussion with the CMLA about the political situation in Pakistan.. He said he had no doubt that General Ziaul Haq not only acknowledged but actually wished to see Pakistan return to the democratic system. He thought if the political leaders accepted their responsibilities, Pakistan would be on the road to democracy during the current year.

Callaghan Concludes Visit

BK131526Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Jan 78 BK

[Text] UK Prime Minister James Callaghan was given a warm sendoff on his departure from Lahore this afternoon at the end of his 3-day official visit to Pakistan.

The chief martial law administrator saw him off. Acting governor of Punjab Mr Minister Aslam Riaz Hussain, the Punjab martial law administrator and high civil and military officials were also present on the occasion.

A smartly turned out contingent derived from the three armed services presented a guard of honor for Mr Callaghan and the national anthem of two countries were played followed by a big march-past. Two photo albums were presented to Mr Callaghan and his wife on their stay in Pakistan. A 19-gun salute was given to the distinguished guests as soon as they entered the plane.

ROMANIA'S NICULESCU ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

BK170821Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0930 GMT 16 Jan 78 BK

[Text] An eight-member Romanian delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Mr Paul Niculescu arrived in Karachi this morning on a 5-day visit to Pakistan.

Meets With Agha Shahi

BK170822Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 17 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The visiting Romanian delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Mr Paul Niculescu met with the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, in Karachi this morning. Matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting.

HAQ ESTABLISHES 16-MEMBER ADVISORY COUNCIL

BK141247Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The Pakistan chief martial law administrator, Gen Ziaul Haq, has set up a 16-member advisory council to run the administration. All advisors will be of minister stature. The advisors assumed charge at the first meeting of the council in Rawalpindi today.

Mr Ghulam Ishaque Khan will be secretary general in charge and will coordinate work among the ministries and with the provincial governments. Mr Agha Shahi will be secretary general for foreign affairs. Air Marshal Enamul Haq will be in charge of home affairs.

SPECIAL COURTS ESTABLISHED TO TRY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

BK161718Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The president has ordered the establishment of 12 special courts for the trial of holders of public representative offices. Of these, five special courts will be in the Punjab, three in Sind and two each in the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] and Baluchistan. The establishment of these courts has been ordered under the Holder of Public Representative Offices Punishment for Misconduct Order, 1978.

BRIEFS

PROJECTS IN ARAB COUNTRIES--Pakistan is to execute a number of projects costing over 500 million dollars in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Iraq. This was stated by the chairman of the National Power Construction Corporation in Karachi on 12 January. The managing director of mechanized construction of Pakistan said the Pakistani engineers and workers had made a good impression in the Arab countries and there was a lot of scope for expanding their activities in these countries. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 12 Jan 78 BK]

PRC WRITERS DELEGATION--An eight-member writers delegation from the People's Republic of China arrived in Rawalpindi last night. The delegation is headed by Madame Yang Mo, who is a prominent novelist of the People's Republic of China. [Text] [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0930 GMT 14 Jan 78 BK]

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